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## What Russians have been up to ahead of 2018 U.S. midterm vote

By The Associated Press

As Americans prepare for another election, Russian troublemakers have again tried to divide U.S. voters and discredit democracy. The activity appears focused on abuse of social media, through American-looking posts and sites, instead of big cyberattacks or disrupting voting systems. So far, it's more modest than the influence campaign Russia is accused of carrying out in 2016, and Russia is not alone — it's just one source of online manipulation ahead of Tuesday's election. Russia denies interference, and may not be able to affect the outcome anyway, but has reason to be interested in the election result. U.S. officials and tech companies are trying to improve election security and fight disinformation campaigns online.



In this Monday, July 16, 2018, file photo, U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands at the beginning of a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 3

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# For some, a vibrant U.S. economy complicates voting decision

By JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

EXTON, Pennsylvania (AP)

— For many voters in America's affluent suburbs, a flourishing economy is forcing a thorny dilemma for the midterm elections.

Do they vote Democratic, in part to protest President Donald Trump for behavior some see as divisive and unpresidential? Or do they back Republicans in hopes that the economy will continue thriving under the majority party?

A healthy economy has at least complicated their decision and blurred the outcome of the midterm elections. On Friday, the government reported that employers added a robust 250,000 jobs in October. And the unemployment rate stayed at a five-decade low of 3.7 percent.

At stake Tuesday is control of the House and Senate, both now led by Republican majorities. Steady economic growth and a vigorous job market haven't been the clincher in prosperous areas that were once seemingly safe Republican turf. Partly as a result, many analysts say Democrats stand a good chance of regaining control of the House even while Republicans maintain the Senate.

The ambivalence of many voters is evident in the Philadelphia suburbs of Bucks and Chester counties. The landscape of rolling hills is dotted by shopping plazas and luxury car dealerships, by fieldstone and stucco houses that fill cul-de-sacs. Residents are likelier than the country as a whole to have college degrees, and the median family income is about \$100,000.

Interviews with about a dozen people elicited a range of sentiments about whether and how the economy might affect their votes. For some, all that matters is the energized pace of job growth, which began under President Barack Obama and has continued under Trump.

Others, some of them lifelong Republicans, are finding their loyalties tested by



In this Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018 photo, Jean Hoffman, above, poses for a photo at the Starbucks in Exton, Pa. In this Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018 photo, Ross Kershey, right, poses for a photo in Exton, Pa.

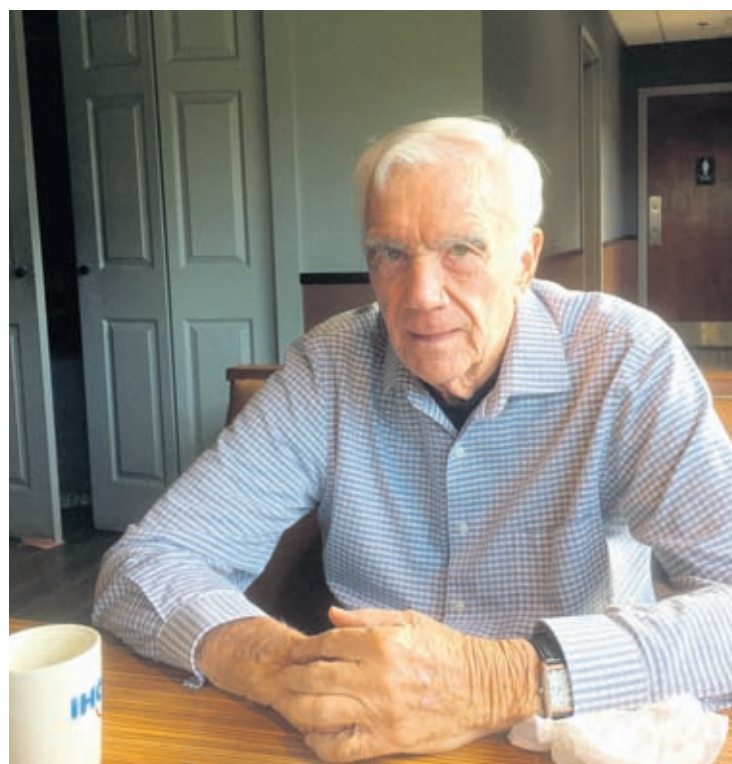
Associated Press

a president who embraces tariffs, disparages refugees and attacks political opponents. With Pennsylvania also holding votes for governor and a Senate seat, many said they were willing to split their votes between the parties.

"I'm not a fan of Donald Trump," said 85-year-old Ross Kershey. "He doesn't respect checks and balances. But he's certainly done well for the economy."

A retired high school history teacher, Kershey is teaching a course on the Supreme Court at Immaculata University in Malvern, a suburb of Philadelphia. Those court cases were fresh in his mind as he sipped tea and ate pancakes at an IHOP on a recent afternoon. He objects to Trump's recent threat to unilaterally suspend the constitutional protection of birthright citizenship as a way to control undocumented immigration.

Yet for all his antipathy toward the president, the strength of the economy is at least giving Kershey pause: "I'll probably vote Democratic, but I'm not sure yet."



Workers have been increasingly benefiting from the economy's strength. Average pay growth for over the past 12 months has reached 3.1 percent, its best year-over-year increase since 2009, the government said Friday. Those gains have been concentrated among affluent Americans, though higher minimum wages have also helped raise the pay of many lower-income workers.

Among people earning at least \$100,000, 60 percent approve of how Trump has handled the economy, according to a survey by The Associated Press and NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That is a relative advantage for a president

whose tax cuts for corporations and individuals are credited with helping boost growth this year.

Jean Hoffman, a 53-year-old real estate agent in Chester County, is pondering the college costs ahead for her two teenage daughters. She said she thinks voting Republican might help extend the economy's hot streak.

"I'm going to have two kids in college, and these are my earning years," she said. "So for me, the economy is the No. 1 priority."

Hoffman said she feels less concerned about Trump's confrontational style or habit of assailing critics.

"It's like white noise at this

in midterms, growth would have to be even stronger to decisively help Republicans this year.

"This time, the real uncertainty is turnout," Fair said. "You can't say anything with much confidence about who is going to be on which side of 50 percent."

To drive turnout, Pat Proprik, chair of the Bucks County Republicans, has been speaking to groups of voters nightly and knocking on doors. She said people in wealthier parts of the county tend to highlight the economy in explaining their intention to back Trump. Those in more modest areas tend to stress non-economic issues, at least at first.

"Economics isn't the first thing out of their mouth," Proprik said. "But when you bring it up, they jump on it." At 83, Dick Calef is a lifelong Republican. He attributes the economic gains in suburban Philadelphia to longer-term factors beyond Trump's policies, like the growth of internet and health care companies. Calef is still unsure how he'll vote.

"I find myself voting to keep a balance in the government," he said. "I'm kind of fed up with the political environment."

Jerry McNeff intends to split his ballot between the parties in Pennsylvania's House, Senate and gubernatorial races.

"Trump had the right philosophy regarding the economy," said McNeff, 72. "Taxes needed to be overhauled. Regulations had become obstructive to industry."

But as he has aged, McNeff said, the economy has mattered less to him. He thinks more about his five grandchildren. Every report of a mass shooting at a school makes him wonder about what could happen to them. And it stuns him that the federal government has done little to prevent future shootings, like seriously considering a bill to expand background checks.

"If you say what is the No. 1 thing that keeps you up at night, that is it." □

point," she said.

Judging by the economy, the status of the House appears too close to call, said Ray Fair, a Yale economist. Using inflation and growth data, Fair developed a model to forecast electoral outcomes, which in 2016 correctly showed that that presidential election favored Republicans.

For 2018, Fair's economy-based model is less favorable than most political surveys for Democratic prospects to win the House. But the gap isn't sufficient to draw a firm conclusion about what will happen Tuesday. Because the party out of power — Democrats, in this case — generally enjoys an advantage



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Here's what they say the Russians have been up to:

#### FUNDING TROLLS

One Russian has been charged so far by U.S. officials of interference in 2018 election campaign: Elena Khusyaynova, a bookkeeper with the Internet Research Agency, the "troll factory" accused of manipulating the 2016 U.S. campaign.

Khusyaynova is accused of a covert social media campaign for both the 2016 and 2018 votes in the United States. The criminal complaint says she began buying social media ads in 2015, including on Facebook and Instagram, and spent on internet services including VPNs, which help mask online activity. Khusyaynova also purchased social media analytics products, which gauge the performance of online postings, and paid bloggers and U.S.-based activists.

The proposed operating budget she oversaw was more than \$35 million from January 2016 through June 2018 — including \$10 million for the first half of this year, the complaint says.

It is unclear how many Americans saw postings financed by Khusyaynova's activity.

#### FAUX-AMERICAN SITES

The Russian troll factory's owners, the Federal News Agency, registered three domain names in April aimed at the U.S. market, according to the SPARK-Interfax database. The websites all lead readers to a site called USAreally, aimed at showing American audiences news that has been "hushed up" by

the mainstream media.

Its Russian roots aren't hard to find. Its Russian chief editor, Alexander Malkevich, is openly critical of Democrats and says "America won" when Donald Trump became president.

Its readership remains small, in the tens of thousands, which Malkevich blames on "censorship" by Facebook and Twitter. It is trying to amplify its voice via links on other media.

In recent days, its focus has been on the migrant caravan weaving through Latin America, on tight congressional races — and on an effort to recruit Megyn Kelly, whose show on NBC was canceled amid controversy over her comments on blackface Halloween costumes.

#### TRICKY TWEETS

Even after the February indictment by U.S. authorities of a dozen Russians linked to the Internet Research Agency, it continued to work on tricking U.S. audiences — including seeking to mobilize activists to participate in street demonstrations.

Twitter last month released millions of tweets and other content targeting Americans that it said came from the IRA, both from the 2016 race and continuing through the summer of 2018, well into the U.S. mid-term campaign.

Examples of tweets include those from the account @TEN\_GOP, which pretended to be Tennessee's Republican party, and posted a photo of then-FBI Director James Comey with the words "resign now."

It's unclear how many people saw the content, which

is no longer available on Twitter itself.

In August, Facebook and security firm FireEye revealed influence campaigns on the social network originating in Russia and Iran. Experts say Russia's alleged actions in the 2016 U.S. election may have encouraged Iran to follow suit.

#### PROBING CANDIDATES

Microsoft executives said recently that the company had detected attempts by Russia's GRU military intelligence agency to hack into the campaigns of two senators, and disabled Russian-launched websites disguised as U.S. think tanks



In this handout photo taken from the Federal News Agency website on Monday, Oct. 22, 2018, Elena Khusyaynova, an accountant poses for a photo.

Associated Press

and Senate sites.

One attempt involved Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, who is seeking re-election in a state that voted overwhelmingly for Trump in 2016. Microsoft identified

an attempt to steal the password of at least one McCaskill staffer through a fake Senate login website, in the most notable instance of attempted campaign meddling by Russia made public this year. □



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## Parkland survivors vote for 1st time, months after massacre

By KELLI KENNEDY and MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

**PARKLAND, Fla. (AP)** — Nine months after 17 classmates and teachers were gunned down at their Florida school, Parkland students are finally facing the moment they've been leading up to with marches, school walkouts and voter-registration events throughout the country: their first Election Day.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student activists set their sights on the 4 million U.S. citizens turning 18 this year. They're hoping to counteract the voter apathy that's especially prevalent among the youth during midterm elections. Many of the activists, now household names like



In this Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018 photo, David Hogg, center, a student who survived the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting walks with volunteers to a polling place on campus during a Vote for Our Lives event at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

David Hogg, postponed college plans to mobilize young voters. Many of them support gun reform, in the name of their fallen classmates.

"It is kind of the culmination of everything we've been working for," said senior Jaclyn Corin, one of the founders of the March For Our Lives group. "This is truly

the moment that young people are going to make the difference in this country."

Corin, who voted along with her dad at an early polling site on her 18th birthday, visited a half-dozen cities in just a handful of days last week, getting up at 3 a.m. to board planes. It has been a whirlwind for the students, with celebrity support from Oprah to Kim Kardashian, a Time magazine cover, late night TV spots and book deals — but all of it misses their main target unless it motivates students to cast ballots by the end of Tuesday.

At a University of Central Florida event during the final week of election campaigning, Stoneman Douglas graduate and current UCF student Bradley Thornton escorted fellow students to the campus' early voting site. UCF student Tiffany McKelton said she wouldn't have voted if the Parkland activists hadn't shown up on campus.

"I've never voted in a primary election. I actually did it because of them," said McKelton, a psychology major from West Palm Beach.

In the past months they've boarded countless buses and planes, passed out T-shirts, and hosted BBQs and dance parties on college campuses around the U.S. Thornton said talking things through often does the trick.

"I can't tell you how many conversations I've had that were like, 'Ah, I'm not interested' ... and through just a simple, really nice cordial conversation, they get this magical inspiration to vote," Thornton said.

Corin said she's encountered plenty of voter apathy along the way. The students often note that voter

turnout in the last midterm elections was the lowest since World War II.

"It's really about tying it back to gun violence or tying it back to immigration or whatever that person is passionate about," Corin said. "I've used that tactic so many times and it has actually worked."

It remains to be seen what role the youth vote will play in this year's midterms.

The 30-and-under crowd is more likely to vote in this year's midterms than in the past. Forty percent say they'll vote, compared to just 26 percent in 2014, according to a new poll by Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. They're being pushed, in part, by a strong disapproval of President Donald Trump.

Trends in Florida's early voting suggest a surge in young voters.

Of the 124,000 people aged 18 to 29 who had voted in person at early polling stations as of Thursday, nearly a third did not vote in the presidential election in 2016, according to analysis by University of Florida political science professor Daniel Smith. About half of those new voters were newly registered.

"There are newly energized voters who sat out in 2016, or have registered since then, who are turning out. There's no question about that," Smith said.

In contrast, for people 65 and older who had voted early and in person, about 7 percent didn't vote in 2016.

Matt Deitsch dropped out of college after the Feb. 14 shooting at Stoneman Douglas to help start March For Our Lives alongside his younger siblings, Parkland survivors Ryan Deitsch and Samantha Deitsch. □




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## Wisconsin town mourns 3 Girl Scouts, 1 adult killed in crash

**LAKE HALLIE, Wis. (AP)** — A western Wisconsin community on Sunday was grieving the deaths of three Girl Scouts and a parent who were collecting trash along a rural highway when police say a pickup truck veered off the road and hit them before speeding

ter Girl Scouts in Wisconsin to grieve and comfort one another in the wake of this terrible tragedy." Counselors, faith leaders and trained school staff would be available at least through Monday at two elementary schools, according to Chippewa Falls

been a very supportive environment," said Michelle Golden, human resources director for the school district. Lake Hallie police Sgt. Daniel Sokup said the pickup, a black Ford F-150, crossed a lane and veered into a roadside ditch, striking the

victims. Other members of the troop were picking up trash from the opposite shoulder. The 21-year-old driver, Colten Treu of Chippewa Falls, sped off but later surrendered. He will be charged with four counts of homicide, Sokup said. It was un-

clear Sunday if Treu had an attorney who could speak for him. Police misspelled Treu's first name as "Colton" in initial news releases. Sokup said it was not immediately known if there were other factors that might have led the driver to leave the road. □



Tire tracks marked with spray paint lead to where a vehicle struck three Girl Scouts and an adult chaperone on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018 in Lake Hallie, Wis.

Associated Press

away. Authorities have not released the names of the girls or the woman who were struck by the truck Saturday in Lake Hallie, or the name of a fourth girl who survived but was in critical condition at a Minnesota hospital. The girls were members of Troop 3055 and were fourth-grade students in nearby Chippewa Falls, which is about 90 miles (145 kilometers) east of Minneapolis. "Our hearts are broken for the girls and families of the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes," CEO Sylvia Acevedo of Girl Scouts of the USA said in a statement Sunday. "The Girl Scout Movement everywhere stands with our sis-

School District Superintendent Heidi Eliopoulos. "This is a difficult time for our students, families and staff," Eliopoulos said in a message to parents. "We will be providing ongoing support for both students (and) families and staff for as long as needed." Teddy bears, balloons and candles sat on two wooden benches in front of Halmstad Elementary School on Sunday while dozens of families met inside with faith leaders and counselors. Families did the same at Southview Elementary School, the other school in Chippewa Falls the girls attended, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. "It's been very nice. There's been a lot of people — it's



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# Reputation precedes 'El Chapo' as U.S. trial approaches

By TOM HAYS

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — He is accused of having a hand in dozens of murders, of using his drug cartel to smuggle more than 200 tons of cocaine into the United States, even pulling off running the massive operation from behind bars. That's when he wasn't busy escaping from jail — twice.

The almost-mythical criminal pedigree of Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who was extradited in 2017 to face U.S. drug conspiracy charges, has sparked security concerns at his upcoming New York City trial that at times have drawn as much attention as the case's sensational allegations.

A look at those concerns



In this Jan. 19, 2017 file photo provided by U.S. law enforcement, authorities escort Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, center, from a plane to a waiting caravan of SUVs at Long Island MacArthur Airport, in Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Associated Press

for a trial that is starting Monday with jury selection. Opening statements are likely Nov. 13.

**WITNESSES IN THE CROSS-**

**HAIRS**

Prosecutors say Guzman was in the habit of ordering the killings of anyone who got in his way during his heyday in Mexico as boss

of the Sinaloa cartel.

In his way now is a lineup of government witnesses who survived the wave of violence and are expected to give details about the ruthless way he kept power for 20 years in the cutthroat world of international drug trafficking. The defense says the witnesses are the true bad guys whose testimony shouldn't be trusted. The names of the witnesses have been blacked out on court documents with prosecutors saying their identities need to be protected because their cooperation could put them in the crosshairs of a vengeful cartel. According to court papers, some are being held in special jail units for their protection, while others are in witness protection programs.

The list of people who could turn up on the witness stand is long. Two standout possibilities are twin brothers Pedro and Margarito Flores, former Chicago-based narcotics wholesalers who did business with Guzman before their arrest in 2008. They agreed to cooperate and record phone conversations with Guzman about the size of shipments smuggled on boats and airplanes.

In one, a voice identified as Guzman's asks, "How much can you get rid of in a month?"

The now imprisoned brothers paid a steep price for flipping: Prosecutors say in 2009 their father was murdered in Mexico by a cartel hit team.

## FORTIFYING THE COURT-HOUSE

At pretrial hearings leading to the trial, heavily armed federal officers and bomb-sniffing dogs patrolled outside. Anyone trying to attend the hearings was put through airport-style metal detectors at the courthouse entrance and at the door of the courtroom itself. The judge also agreed with prosecutors that the jury for the case should be kept anonymous, a measure typical in terrorism or mob cases where jury intimidation is a concern.

No one's hiding the ominous nature of the case from potential jurors. Questions for them on an initial screening form ask if they've ever heard of "El Chapo" along with, "Have you, or has anyone close to you, ever felt fearful of or threatened by people who you thought were associated with drug crimes?"

Jurors also will be escorted to and from the courthouse by federal officers and sequestered from the public while inside. As a reason, the judge cited prosecutors' contention that Guzman's cartel "employs 'sicarios,' or hit men, who carried out hundreds of acts of violence, including murders, assaults and kidnappings."

## KEEPING AN EYE ON EL CHAPO

After Guzman was brought to New York, authorities here decided he should be housed in solitary confinement in a high-security wing of a federal jail in Manhattan that has held notorious terrorists and mobsters.

Central to that calculation was Guzman's history of giving directions to his lieutenants from Mexican jails and credentials as a two-time escapee there. The second time was via a mile-long (1.6 kilometer-long) tunnel dug to the shower in his cell.

The logistical problem for his keepers: The case is being prosecuted across the East River in federal court in Brooklyn.

For pre-trial hearings, authorities opted to transport him to and from jail by shutting down the Brooklyn Bridge to make way for a police motorcade that included a SWAT team and an ambulance, all tracked by helicopters.

The judge indicated he thinks the time and expense involved would add up to a logistical nightmare — and an inconvenience for New Yorkers who rely on the bridge to commute — for a trial expected to last as long as four months. He said there would be adjustments, but didn't elaborate. □

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# Utah mayor, guard member killed by trainee in Afghanistan

**NORTH OGDEN, Utah (AP)** — A Utah mayor who was also a Utah Army National Guard major training commandos in Afghanistan was fatally shot by one of his Afghan trainees, officials said Sunday.

Brent Taylor, 39, had taken a yearlong leave of absence as mayor of North Ogden north of Salt Lake City for his deployment to Afghanistan.

He was a military intelligence officer with Joint Force Headquarters and was expected to return to his mayoral job in January. Another U.S. military member whose name was not immediately made public was wounded in Saturday's attack that killed Taylor, who died from wounds from small arms fire, military officials said.

Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, told reporters that Taylor's mission was to help train and build the capacity of the Afghan national army. "He was with folks he was helping and training. That's what's so painful about this. It's bitter," Burton said. "I do believe that Major Taylor felt he was among friends, with people he was working with."

Utah media outlets cited a statement from NATO saying that Taylor was shot by

one of the commandos being trained and that the attacker was killed by Afghan forces.

Taylor leaves behind a wife and seven children. His remains are scheduled to arrive at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Monday evening.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert said Taylor "was there to help. He was a leader. He loved the people of Afghanistan... This is a sad day for Utah, for America."

"Brent was a hero, a patriot, a wonderful father, and a dear friend," U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah said on Twitter. "News of his death in Afghanistan is devastating. My prayers and love are with Jennie and his seven young children. His service will always be remembered."

Taylor served two tours in Iraq and was on his second tour in Afghanistan.

Taylor in January when he was being deployed told local media that he was assigned to serve on an advisory team training the staff of an Afghan commando battalion.

Hundreds of residents of North Ogden lined the street to see him off as police escorted him and his family around North Ogden, a community of about 17,000. Taylor became the city's mayor in 2013. □



This undated photo provided by the Utah National Guard shows Maj. Brent Taylor of the Utah National Guard.

Associated Press

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# Aid workers reach remote Syrian camp for 1st time

By **ALBERT AJI**  
**SARAH EL DEEB**

**DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)** —

U.N. officials and volunteers from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent offered children vaccinations and distributed desperately needed aid on Sunday, the first such assistance since January to reach thousands in a remote camp for the displaced on Syria's border with Jordan.

Residents said that teams from international organizations entered their desolate camp for the first time since it was set up over three years ago, where nearly 50,000 have been stranded in limbo.

Fadwa Baroud of the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator said it was the first time a U.N. aid convoy had accessed Rukban camp from inside Syria. She said aid workers were in the Rukban area.

Before January, aid only reached the camp from Jordan and aid workers were barred from accessing the camp because of security concerns.

The Arab Syrian Red Crescent and the United Nations posted pictures of staff unloading trucks of life-saving assistance and administering vaccines to children.

Residents posed with the aid trucks driving through the desolate camp, where 10,000 children are expected to be vaccinated.

The U.S.-led coalition fighting against Islamic State militants said its local allies, a Syrian armed group known as Maghawir al-Thawra, provided security



This photo released by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, shows a convoy of vehicles of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent driving in the Syrian desert heading to Rukban camp between the Jordan and Syria borders, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

*Associated Press*

for the aid convoys.

Resident Abdul-Fatah al-Khaled, who also runs a camp school, said aid workers, including U.N. staff, were on the ground at the camp for the first time.

"Before (January) the aid used to be distributed from the Jordanian side over the sand berms" or by rebel groups who resided in the camp, al-Khaled said.

Al-Khaled said distribution of food and winter clothes began late Saturday.

People started gathering in Rukban three years ago, fleeing IS militants and airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition, Russia and Syria. Jordan sealed its border and stopped regular aid deliveries in 2016 after a cross-border IS attack that killed seven Jordanian soldiers.

The attack, and other violence, fueled accusations that militants were hiding among camp residents and raised concern that deteriorating humanitarian conditions amounted to collective punishment.

The last aid delivery from Jordan was in January, leaving the camp's residents dependent on goods largely smuggled from government-held areas. The situation sharply deteriorated after the Syrian government blocked supply routes last month following a botched reconciliation deal with rebel groups in the area.

Russia, a close ally of the Syrian government, has blamed the U.S. for the deterioration of the situation in Rukban, which is within a

55-square kilometer (20 sq. mile) "deconfliction zone" set up by U.S. forces stationed in the nearby Tanf military base.

The U.S.-led coalition has denied such allegations and blamed Russia and the Syrian government instead. "We continue to stand ready to enable future delivery of U.N. humanitarian relief to the people of Rukban until they are able to return home as we pursue our mission of an enduring defeat of (IS)," said Maj. Gen. (UK) Christopher Ghika, a deputy commander for the U.S.-led Coalition.

The U.N. said aid deliveries would continue for up to four days, describing the condition in the camp as "critical" with reported shortages of basic com-

modities, protection concerns and increasing violence.

At least four people have died in the past month due to malnutrition and lack of medical care as regional powers traded blame.

Also on Sunday, the U.S.-led coalition conducted joint patrols with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces along the borders with Turkey, the second this week following increased tension after Turkish artillery shelled Kurdish positions in north-east Syria.

"Sunday's joint patrol with the SDF is the second of the week, after the first one was conducted by US forces on Friday," Col. Sean Ryan, the coalition spokesman, told The Associated Press in an email. "The US forces' assurance patrols enables us to maintain safety and security in the region, but are not carried out on a routine basis."

Senior Kurdish official Ilham Ahmed said the patrols were conducted along the borders with Turkey in Ras al-Ayn, Tal Abiyad and Manbij.

In recent tension, Turkey said its military shelled Kurdish positions across the border in Syria, east of the Euphrates River, at least twice last week, in an area where U.S.-led coalition are based. Turkey considers the Kurdish militia that forms the backbone of SDF a terror threat and an extension of Kurdish rebels waging an insurgency within Turkey. U.S. support for the Kurdish-led forces has resulted in increased tension between Washington and Ankara. □





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# Storms, floods in Sicily kill at least 12 people; 2 missing

By FRANCES D'EMILIO  
Associated Press

**ROME (AP)** — Storm-related floods killed at least 12 people in Sicily, Italian authorities said Sunday, including nine members of two families who were spending a long weekend together when water and mud from a swollen river overran their rented villa.

After surveying the stricken Mediterranean island by helicopter, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte identified two more of the victims as a German couple whose car was swept away by flood waters near Agrigento, a tourist town known for its ancient Greek temples. Italian news reports said a 1-year-old, a 3-year-old and a teenager were among the flood victims from the family get-together in Casteldaccia. A survivor, Giuseppe Giordano, lost his wife, two of his children, his parents and a brother, Italian news agency ANSA said.

State broadcaster RaiNews24 said Giordano was stepping outside on Saturday night when the torrent rushed in and described him as the sole person to make it out alive. When he opened the door, "there was a river of water, I was knocked down and grabbed hold of a tree," Giordano told reporters between sobs. "I was yelling, 'Help, help.'"

"My son Federico tried to save his little sister, but both died," Giordano said, telling reporters he heard his son call out "I handle" about the girl's rescue.

Then "I saw the windows go dark, the light go out, a layer of mud was moving across the floor," Giordano said. Then, he said he was swept away from the house by the force of the water.



A view of the area where nine people lost their lives when their home was flooded in Casteldaccia, near Palermo, Italy, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

The two families had gathered in the villa during Italy's long weekend centering on the Nov. 1 All Saint's Day national holiday. Although Italian news reports originally described him of the house's owner, Giordano said he was renting the villa.

Casteldaccia Mayor Giovanni Di Giacinto told Sky TG24 that the flood water reached 2 meters (more than 6 feet) high inside the home.

Rescuers retrieved the bodies from the home. A Sicilian prosecutor opened an investigation to determine if neglect, such as possible inadequate drainage of the river, played a role in the deaths or if the home was built illegally close to the river.

The latter might be the case. Pino Virga, the mayor of the neighboring town of Altavilla Milicia, told SkyTG24 TV that other local authorities told him the house was slated for demolition because it stood too near the river.

Separately, Di Giacinto told reporters the homeowner

had blocked the demolition by challenging it in a local tribunal.

A nursing home up the road was spared any damage, ANSA reported.

Only days earlier, other storms battered much of northern Italy, killing at least 15 people, uprooting millions of trees near Alpine valleys and leaving several Italian villages without electricity or road access for days.

Conte said a special Cabinet meeting could be in the coming days to deliberate aid for storm-ravaged communities, as well as to approve 1 billion euros (\$1.15 billion) to ensure safe hydrogeological conditions in Italy, including proper cleaning of riverbeds.

The other known casualty in Sicily was a man whose body was also found on a guardrail along a Palermo-area road after floodwaters swept away his car, Italian news reports said. □

Associated Press

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## Egypt says perpetrators of attack against Christians killed

By HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt said Sunday that security forces have killed 19 militants in a shootout, including the gunmen suspected of killing seven Christians in an attack on pilgrims traveling to a remote desert monastery.

The Interior Ministry, which oversees the police, said the militants were tracked to a hideout in the desert west of the central province of Minya, the site of Friday's attack, which also left 19 people wounded.

It said the alleged militants opened fire when they realized they were being besieged by security forces. It did not say when the shootout took place or explain how it had determined that the perpetrators of Friday's attack were among the

19 killed. The ministry published photographs purporting to show the bodies of the slain militants, as well as rifles, shotguns and pistols. Other images showed the inside of a tent with the black banner of the Islamic State group — which claimed responsibility for Friday's attack — unfurled on the ground.

An IS affiliate centered in the Sinai Peninsula has repeatedly targeted Christians, in part over their support for President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

El-Sissi led the 2013 overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president and has since waged a sweeping crackdown on dissent, jailing thousands of Islamists and other activists.

Friday's attack was the second in as many years to target pilgrims on their way to



In this Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018 file photo, relatives and friends carry the coffin of, Maria Kamal, who was killed in an attack on a bus Saturday, after funeral services at the Church of Great Martyr Prince Tadros, in Minya, Egypt.

Associated Press

the monastery of St. Samuel the Confessor, after a May 2017 assault left 29 dead. Christians make up about 10 percent of Egypt's 100

million people and have long complained of discrimination. They have accused police of negligence after this and other attacks,

and say authorities often go easy on Muslim assailants after outbreaks of sectarian violence.

They have found a measure of protection under el-Sissi which, according to Christian activists, did not extend to members of the ancient community in rural regions where radical Muslims whip up anti-Christian sentiments, often over the construction or restoration of churches or romantic relationships between Christians and Muslims.

Pope Francis on Sunday decried the attack and invited the faithful in St. Peter's Square to pray with him for the seven people killed on Friday. He said he was praying for the "pilgrims killed for the sole fact of being Christians," asking that those grieving be comforted. □

## Poland: Exit poll gives centrists edge in key mayoral races

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** — An exit poll suggested Poland's populist ruling party lost runoff mayoral elections Sunday in Krakow and Gdansk, though it wasn't immediately clear how hundreds of other local races across the country were leaning. Runoff elections for the mayor's office in 649 cities, towns and municipalities took place between the top two vote-getters from a first round of voting conducted two weeks ago.

The elections were being watched as a test of national support for the ruling Law and Justice party, which won power in 2015. The party, which has promoted Polish patriotism, traditional Catholic values and welfare programs, remains broadly popular with its conservative base.



People vote during the second round of the local elections at a polling station in Lomianki, Poland, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

The party's critics accuse it of moving in an authoritarian direction through efforts to control the judicial system.

During the Oct. 21 first round voting, Law and Justice strengthened its position in regional assemblies but lost mayoral races outright in Warsaw, Poznan and Lodz

to a centrist pro-European Union coalition led by the Civic Platform party.

With Sunday's runoff, the opposition took at least three more of Poland's most prestigious cities.

In the Baltic port city of Gdansk, incumbent Pawel Adamowicz with Civic Platform won re-election to a

sixth term. The Ipsos polling agency projected support for Adamowicz at nearly 65 percent and support for the Law and Justice candidate, Kacper Plazynski, at just over 35 percent.

In Krakow, another long-serving mayor, Jacek Majchrowski, held off a challenge from Law and Justice challenger Malgorzata Wassermann. Majchrowski was also projected to win nearly 65 percent of the vote.

Ipsos' projections had the mayor's job in the city of Kielce going to another opposition candidate: Bogdan Wenta, one of the best athletes in the history of Polish handball and a former coach of the national team.

The results have highlighted deep political differences between residents of Poland's cities, which have

been liberal centers of opposition to the Law and Justice-led government, and of the country's rural heartland, which remains largely supportive of the party despite its conflicts with the EU.

Official returns were not expected until Monday at the earliest.

The local elections kicked off a string of votes setting Poland's course, including the May election choosing European Parliament representatives, the national parliament vote in fall 2019 and a presidential election in the spring of 2020.

Law and Justice won 34 percent of the total regional assembly votes two weeks ago, and the opposition coalition nearly 28 percent. One of the primary jobs of the assemblies is choosing how to spend EU subsidies. □



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## Aussie nun who angered Duterte forced to leave Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

An Australian nun who angered the Philippine president by joining anti-government protests used her final hours in the country to call on Filipinos to unite and fight human rights abuses. Sister Patricia Anne Fox left the Philippines for Australia on Saturday night. The Bureau of Immigration ordered her deported in July, put her on a blacklist and then downgraded her missionary visa to a temporary visitor's visa, which expired Saturday.

President Rodrigo Duterte has bristled at criticism of his leadership, particularly by foreigners like Fox, who he says have no right to meddle in Philippine domestic affairs. Most of the criticism has focused on his bloody anti-drug campaign, which has left thousands dead, alarmed Western governments and rights groups and prompted two complaints of mass murder before the International Criminal Court. "At present in the Philippines the human rights



Australian Roman Catholic nun Sister Patricia Fox prepares for a news conference hours before her departure for Australia Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018, in Manila, Philippines.

Associated Press

abuses are just increasing and it's a reign of terror and tyranny," Fox told reporters after arriving at Melbourne airport on Sunday.

During a farewell news conference in a Catholic school before leaving for the Manila airport with a convoy of supporters, the 71-year-old Fox called on

Filipinos to speak up and help the marginalized fight to gain land, houses and jobs.

"The big challenge now is not to lose hope, to know that if we all move together, we can bring about change," Fox said.

"Pope Francis said that if you're a Christian and

there's massive human rights violations ... you should take action, make noise. Where the oppressed are, the church people should be there, not only always talking but with them and hopefully more vocal," she said.

Fox told The Associated Press separately by phone

that Duterte's anti-drug crackdown was "horribly barbaric" and she vowed to return to the country if allowed to resume her 27 years of missionary work for the poor.

"I know a lot of mothers, wives who have lost someone. You have no right to take a life just like that without justice," Fox said.

Dozens of activists, laborers, priests, nuns and tribal people, some in tears, thanked Fox by celebrating a Mass in her honor before sending her off. A lawyers group backing Fox, the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers, said that by persecuting a frail and low-key missionary, Duterte has turned her into an "overnight rock star."

Known for being soft-spoken, Fox is a coordinator of a Roman Catholic order of nuns and has worked for the poor in the Philippines. She promotes human rights and the welfare of workers, farmers and ethnic groups and has spoken against Duterte and his government, which has also been criticized for stifling dissent.

□



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## Most of leading migrant caravan heads for Mexico City

By SONIA PEREZ D.

Associated Press

**ISLA, Mexico (AP)** — Thousands of bone-tired Central Americans set their sights on Mexico City on Sunday, after undertaking a grueling journey through a part of Mexico that has been particularly treacherous for migrants seeking to get to the United States.

The majority of the roughly 4,000 migrants streamed into the town of Cordoba in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, a gateway to the central part of the country 124 miles from their previous stop. The day's trek was one of the longest yet, as the exhausted migrants tried to make progress walking and hitching rides toward the U.S. border still hundreds of miles away.

It is unclear what part of the U.S. border they will aim for eventually, but their latest overnight stay in Veracruz could be one of their last before they head to Mexico City, a potential launching spot for a broader array of destinations.

In the capital, they may also receive additional support, although Mexican officials have appeared conflicted over whether to help or hinder their journey.

Manuel Calderon, 43, a migrant from El Salvador, knew many miles lay ahead and said he wanted to "speed up the pace." He said he was fleeing violence in his home country and had dreams of making it back to the U.S., from which he was deported a little more than two years ago.

On the road, he was greet-

Central American migrants pack into the back of a trailer truck as they begin their morning trek as part of a thousands-strong caravan hoping to reach the U.S. border, in Isla, Veracruz state, Mexico, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

ed by ordinary Mexicans lending a hand. Catalina Munoz said she bought tortillas on credit to assemble tacos of beans, cheese and rice when she heard the migrant caravan would pass through Benemerito Juarez, her tiny town of 3,000 inhabitants. She gathered 15 others to help make the tacos, fill water bottles and carry fruit to weary travelers on the roadside.

As migrants began filling into a sports complex in Cordoba, others had already hopped freight trucks to Puebla and even Mexico City. A few arrived at a large outdoor stadium in the capital and lounged on bleachers a day after divisions beset the ranks of the caravan over which route to take.

Some were disappointed after organizers unsuccessful-

fully pleaded for buses after three weeks on the road. Others were angry for being directed northward through Veracruz, calling it the "route of death."

The trek past the state's sugar fields and fruit groves has taken the majority through a state where hundreds of migrants have disappeared in recent years, falling prey to kidnappers looking for ransom payments. Authorities there said in September they had discovered remains from at least 174 people buried in clandestine graves, raising questions about whether the bodies belonged to migrants.

But even with the group somewhat more scattered, most of the migrants were convinced that traveling as a large mass was their best hope for reaching the U.S.

The migrants generally say they are fleeing rampant poverty, gang violence and political instability primarily in the Central American countries of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

"We think that it is better to continue together with the caravan. We are going to stay with it and respect the organizers," said Luis Euseda, a 32-year-old from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, traveling with his wife, Jessica Fugon. "Others went ahead, maybe they have no goal, but we do have a goal and it is to arrive."

Mynor Chavez, a 19-year-old from Copan, Honduras, was determined to continue.

"I have no prospects (in Honduras). I graduated as a computer technician and not even with a de-

gree have I been able to find work," he said of his home country.

Mexico faces the unprecedented situation of having three migrant caravans stretched over 300 miles (500 kilometers) of highway in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Veracruz.

On Friday, a caravan from El Salvador waded over the Suchiate River into Mexico, bringing around 1,000 people who want to reach the U.S. border. That caravan initially tried to cross the bridge between Guatemala and Mexico, but Mexican authorities told them they would have to show passports and visas and enter in groups of 50 for processing.

Another caravan, also of about 1,000 people, entered Mexico early in the past week. That group includes Hondurans, Salvadorans and some Guatemalans.

The first, and largest, group of mainly Honduran migrants entered Mexico on Oct. 19.

Mexico's Interior Ministry estimated Saturday that there are more than 5,000 migrants in total currently moving through southern Mexico via caravans or in smaller groups. The ministry says 2,793 migrants have applied for refuge in Mexico in recent weeks and around 500 have asked for assistance to return to their countries of origin.

Uncertainty awaits migrants who reach the U.S.

President Donald Trump has ordered U.S. troops to the Mexican border in response to the caravans. □



## LOCAL



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**ORANJESTAD** – In the year 1974 a group of enthusiastic people, stimulated by the Netherlands, founded the “Stichting Blindenzorg Aruba” foundation. In 1975 the name was changed to the Papiamentu name “Fundacion Arubano di esnan Visualmente Incapacita,” abbreviated as FAVI, easily recognizable in the community. The name FAVI nowadays is directly linked to the visually impaired. Cetty Baarh, Director of the foundation: “FAVI is for the blind and visually impaired, we are the only one on the island that gives guidance to this group. The objective is to help and guide them with the main purpose to make them happy again. We focus first on happiness because when the person feels good about her or himself again after losing her or his sight, only then we can mean something to them. Only then they accept our help and if they do we concentrate on what they want and need.”

#### Reintegration into Society

Either the eye specialist or the client initiates to come to FAVI. Next they go to their home to see the situation and register their needs. “What do you want? How is your home situation? Do you have problems at your job? are some of the questions we ask. After that we do a practical visual check with a revalidation therapist. The test is not medical but for us to determine the person’s visual capacity. When a person has 30% or less they are considered a visually impaired person.” In general people with a vision above that, they are not accepted. However the exception is when their func-



tional system is not working well, we need to set a guideline. FAVI has ten workers, the director, two teachers, bus drivers, receptionist, and cleaning lady among others. A revalidation therapist gives all trainings and operates the vision testing. She teaches patients how to work on the computer, typing and does Braille classes for clients and teachers as well. It does not stop there, as the assistant at the school also has to teach Braille to the parents. There are information briefings to the police school and lectures within the community. The activity coordinator takes care of all social activities like trips to the beach or casino and bus trips, a Christmas celebration or a comedy show visit. The social workers visit the homes of the clients and organize conversational sessions as there are so many topics that the clients have issues with and in this group they talk and find solutions. “Depressions are common with our clients but this group helps them a lot, there is a way out. We focus on what they can still do and on acceptance. If you were able to see before and lose your sight it is really very difficult. When a child is born without sight mostly the parents have problems. We need to teach the child how the world appears and we paint that world. Their social behavior differs often from other children as their senses are more developed and they express in a different way which can cause misunderstandings.

#### 3, 105 Visually Impaired

According to Census Aruba 2010 there are 3,105 visually impaired people. FAVI only has 350 clients, by percentage that is comparable to the Netherlands and Curacao. “They do not look for help easily. The reasons are the taboo, they are embarrassed to get out,

do not want people to know and will try to ignore it, as long as manageable. Other factors are they do not wish to burden the family so they keep themselves isolated”, the director explains. The majority of the clients are visually impaired because of glaucoma or diabetes; for sure 80% of those illnesses are the cause and also age. A smaller group is born with the illness, like premature babies, babies with eye disease or born with cataracts. “Before the age range was 60 and up, but the clients are getting younger, so 50 and up is now applicable but a growing group are young people in their twenties. This is because of the unhealthy eating lifestyle so they get diabetes that can go hand-in-hand with losing sight.”

#### Reach Out

FAVI visits the doctors to underline the importance of referring clients to them. “We would like to reach everybody, we have the knowledge in-house and the professionals working here. We call on the community to be open to us, even if you do not have this problem yourself, you might know someone in your neighborhood, and friends, family and you help a lot to inform them about us to coax them out of isolation.

#### Needs

“We would love tourists to come and see our facility to see what we have to offer and interact with clients. Clients are always open to that, so call us and stop by. Every Wednesday we have gym class and we have other classes, it would be great to show you how we work and have you spread the word,” Baarh says. FAVI as a foundation receives a government subsidy, mainly to pay the workers and they have other funds from different donations. “We do activities to get funding and we have collectors. We can only run by that. We are in need of equipment and that is expensive, especially for the blind and visually impaired, like Braille type machines, printers etc. For example we have two blind children on the island that follow regular education completely in Braille, so they have their typing machine for Braille. But the technology is advancing and we need to be able to keep up to make sure these kids can proceed in the regular system.” □

If you would like to visit the foundation, please call: + (297) 582-5222 or 582-5051 and ask for Cetty Baarh. For more information visit the website: <http://www.favi-aruba.org/> or Facebook: FAVI. Thank You!



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## ATSA's General Meeting October, 2018



**EAGLE BEACH --** The members of the Aruba Timeshare Association, convened for their monthly lunch-meeting at the new La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino ballroom, with representatives of most of the island's Vacation Ownership properties, and a number of strategic partners in attendance.

ATSA's interim President Andy Osborne welcomed members and partners before officially opening the meeting with the approval of minutes from the meeting held in June, 2018.

In his welcome greeting Osborne informed the forum that he will be serving as Interim President until the end of the association's year - i.e. December 2018 - when he is planning to resign from the board. His appointment as Interim President came in the wake of Ursell M. Arends, Operations Manager, La Quinta Beach Resort recent resignation. In his resignation letter, Arends shared his view that his political career in conjunction with the ATSA Presidency, will not benefit the association. Consequently, he has taken the decision to step down, thanking all for the collaboration and support provided to him over the past two years.

Osborne announced that ATSA fully understands and respects Arends' decision to relinquish the Presidency in the circumstances outlined, and thanked him for his efforts, knowing that ATSA can still count on Arends' backing when needed.

The forum the sent its wishes for success in Arends' future endeavors - politically, personally and professionally. Osborne also reminded the forum that the articles of association call for a slate of candidates for the Board to be announced at the November meeting, and that ATSA will be looking for three (3) candidates for board positions.

The meeting praised the annual initiative to host EPB Oranjestad and EPB St Nicolas students, for a visit at the Amsterdam Manor, Costa Linda, Casa del Mar, La Quinta, Divi Resorts, Paradise Beach Villas, Playa Linda, Tropicana and La Cabana between, on two consecutive days. The annual initiative increases the exposure of the local hotel industry among youths, often planting the seed for future employment possibilities, early on.



With General Manager Farida Mansur retiring from her position at the Aruba Beach Club, after 31 fruitful years, the forum was introduced to Pam Cordell, Senior Vice President of Operations for NHG, National Hospitality Group, which recently assumed responsibility for management at the Aruba Beach Club. Cordell shared that her company is pleased to add the Aruba Beach Club to its chain of 72 popular properties, most of them time-share resorts.

Pedro Vargas, recently appointed General Manager of the Marriott Ocean Club also introduced himself to the forum, and announced that he will be participating regularly in the upcoming ATSA meetings representing his resort.

The meeting welcomed a short update on the upcoming CEDE Aruba & ATSA collaboration for the purpose of fund raising for local social causes.

Among other news items shared: Paradise Beach Resort just-introduced a program where food stuff left behind by tourists and members is donated to Fundacion pa Nos comunidad.

ATSA representative at the Tourism product Enhancement Fun reported that while the government

budget for the year has been approved, a number of important service providers such as Sea Solutions and Clean Master, are still awaiting payment.

ATSA's dispute of some of the beach policy charges is still tied up in court and will hopefully be resolved in the upcoming months.

La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino was proud to show its new ballroom off as a conference and banquet facility.

The Aruba Beach Club reported that the resort is fully recovered from the swells brought about by Tropical Storm Kirk in September, and will be constructing a retaining wall to avoid future ocean damage.

Playa Linda Beach Resort is continuously upgrading, and has been going down its to-do list which includes new windows, renovated bathrooms, kitchens furniture and appliances.

Costa Linda Beach Resort reported rave reviews for the Frangipani suites, now sold out.

Caribbean Palm Village Resort is installing brackets for its new solar panels.

The Marriott Surf Club and Ocean Club both reported major investments, with a new Sales Gallery readied for the high season of 2018-19, a resurfaced pool and refreshed lobby for the Ocean Club and a major upgrade for the Surf Club. The Ocean Club also received a refreshed food concept, at the brand new Malmok restaurant.

Paradise Beach Villas will be celebrating its 25th anniversary under the Bougainvillea development flag.

Osborne thanked La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino for hosting a perfect event including a sumptuous healthy lunch, as he adjourned the meeting. □



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## Honoring loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba

ORANJESTAD —Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and Friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The Honorees are Mr. Tom & Mrs. Sherry Trebes, from Ohio and also Mr. John Moran and Mr. Sabina Parolise, from Pennsylvania. Who

have been coming to Aruba for their 10th and 12th consecutive trip to the island. The couples love coming to the island for the friendly people, warm weather and great variety of foods.

Jonathan together with representatives of Marriott Surf Club Resort, presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □





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## Meet at Aruba's Community Museum

**SAN NICOLAS** — The newest Museum has opened its doors in the heart of San Nicolas. The new San Nicolas Community Museum is the latest addition to the museums in Aruba and this museum is an invitation to explore deeper layers of culture on Aruba.

The museum features collections curated to share a slice of the everyday lives of past generations in the

island. The new Community Museum is housed in the Nicolaas Store, a recently restored monument in the heart of downtown San Nicolas. Just this restored two-level beauty is worth a visit by itself, with original flooring and wooden doors. A terrace on the

second floor provides 360 views over the city.

The Mundi Health Café that is established in the same building will offer you a healthy fresh juice, a great coffee and a worldly bite. For more information: Facebook Community Museum. □



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# SPORTS



Kevin Harvick celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

## Harvick earns his shot at NASCAR Cup title with win at Texas

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
AP Sports Writer

**FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)**

— Kevin Harvick earned a shot at another NASCAR Cup championship, rocketing past polesitter Ryan Blaney in overtime Sunday to win at Texas.

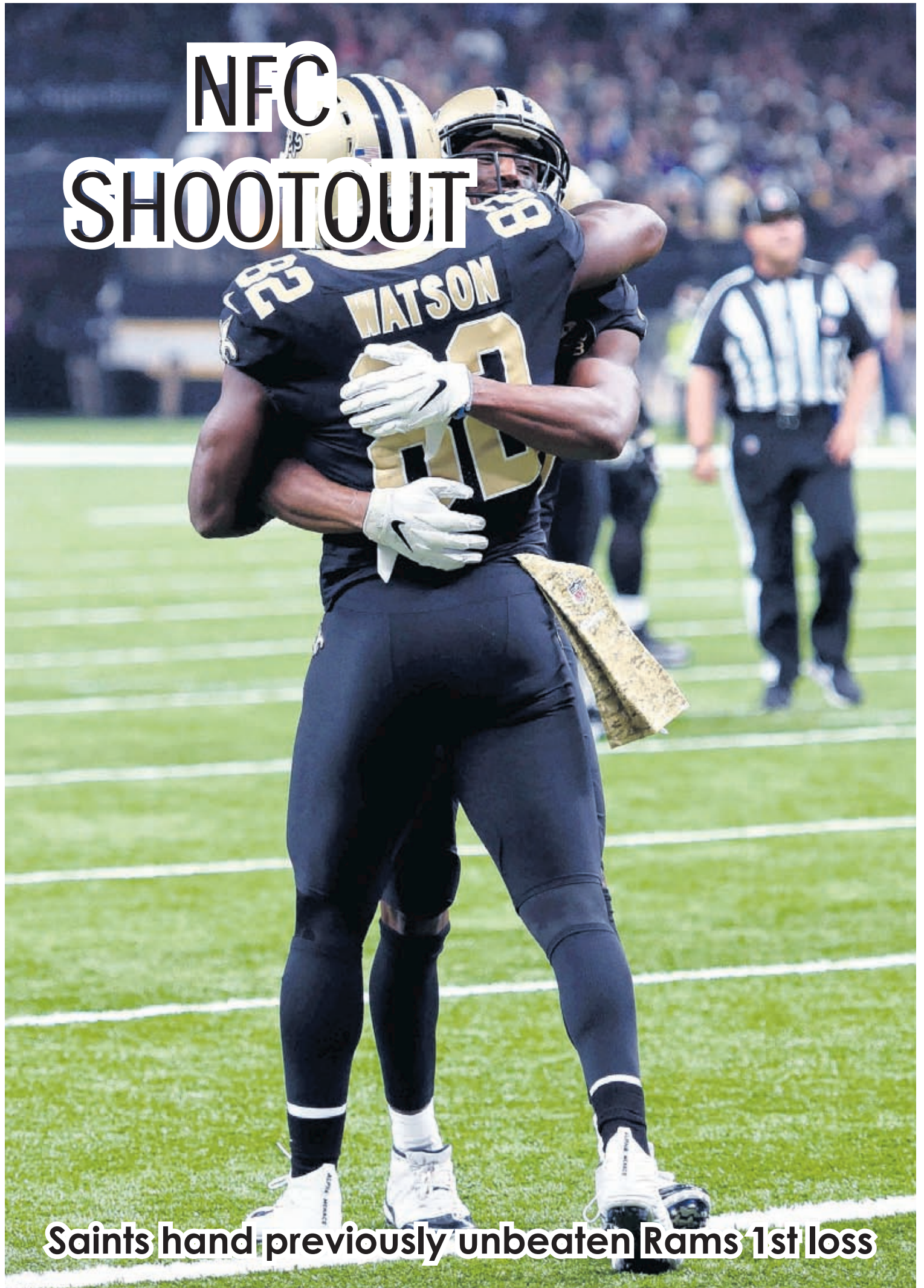
Another late caution led to a third restart in the final 35 laps, each time with Harvick leading. Harvick led 177 of the 337 laps.

After taking the inside on the first two restarts, and briefly losing the lead after the second one, Harvick opted to start from outside for the green-white-checkered finish. By time they got to the backstretch, Harvick had pushed his No. 4 Ford in front and raced to his eighth win of this season.

"I thought if I could keep him from finishing the corner I could drive back by him," Harvick said. "It all worked out."

Continued on Page 22

## NFC SHOOTOUT



## Saints hand previously unbeaten Rams 1st loss

New Orleans Saints tight end Benjamin Watson (82) celebrates his touchdown with wide receiver Michael Thomas in the first half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams in New Orleans, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Associated Press  
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# Rose wins Turkish Airlines Open, retakes No. 1 ranking

**ANTALYA, Turkey (AP)** — Justin Rose is No. 1 in the world again, and this time it feels even more special. More than having the top ranking, he goes home with a trophy.

Rose rallied from a three-shot deficit Sunday with a 3-under 68, and then defeated Li Haotong of China on the first playoff hole with a par to win the Turkish Airlines Open for the second straight year.

The first time Rose reached No. 1 in the world was two months ago, a bittersweet moment because he lost the BMW Championship outside Philadelphia in a playoff against Keegan Bradley.

"This time I've got some silverware," Rose said. "Last time it was muted because I was still so mad at not winning the tournament at the BMW. But this time I've got the double kind of winning feeling, so it might be a bit more fun to celebrate it at this time."

The 38-year-old from England has plenty to cele-



Justin Rose of England eyes the ball during round three of the HSBC Champions golf tournament held at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018.

Associated Press

brate of late.

He won the FedEx Cup on the PGA Tour with its \$10 million bonus, but much like getting to No. 1 in the world for the first time, it was an awkward moment because he had a chance to win the Tour Championship and instead closed with a 73 and tied for fourth.

Those were big achievements that felt at the moment like consolation prizes. "Not having that winning feeling in a tournament but

still coming away with accolades," Rose said. "I was keenly aware that I wanted to get back in the winner's circle, and it was good to get it done today."

He needed help from Li, who closed with a 71 and lost the playoff with a three-putt bogey from just inside 10 feet.

"It's a tough day for me," Li said. "I think I played well the whole week, but didn't hole a few putts on the last and that was it."

Rose made his fourth birdie of the round at the 14th for a two-shot lead. Li responded with a stunning approach to tap-in range on the par-5 15th for an eagle and a share of the lead when Rose three-putted from long range for par.

Rose made a 4-foot birdie on the 16th to regain the lead, only to give it back with a three-putt bogey on the 17th. Li three-putted from long range on the 18th for bogey and Rose was set to win in regulation when he blasted out of a bunker to 4 feet, only to miss the short par putt.

Rose missed a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th in a playoff. Li missed his birdie putt for the win, and then missed the par putt to lose. It was the 21st victory worldwide for Rose, and the first time he had successfully defended his title. While the Turkish Airlines Open was only his second title this year, he has been at a consistently high level over the last two months.

Rose has finished no worse

than eighth in his last six tournaments dating to the second FedEx Cup playoff event on the PGA Tour. Going back to his victory at the Colonial on the PGA Tour, he has finished in the top 10 in 11 of his last 13 tournaments.

Rose said it was the best golf of his career "as a collective body of work."

"Just the consistency of it," he said. "I think I averaged 68.9 on the PGA Tour this year, and that's way lower than I've ever averaged before. The fun thing is I still feel like there's improvement to be had and that's what I'm looking for. I'm really looking forward to the offseason to still work at a few things and still get better. I think that's the exciting part — at 38, I still feel like there is improvement to be achieved." Rose was headed home to the Bahamas instead of playing the next Rolex Series event in South Africa, and he was not planning to be at the Race to Dubai finale at the DP World Championship. □



Bryson DeChambeau celebrates after sinking a putt for an eagle on the 16th green during the final round of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open golf tournament Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Bryson DeChambeau holed an eagle putt from just inside 60 feet on the 16th hole that carried him to a 5-un-

der 66 and a one-shot victory over Patrick Cantlay in the Shriners Hospital for Children Open on Sunday. DeChambeau won for the

## Late eagle carries DeChambeau to victory in Las Vegas

fourth time in his last 12 starts on the PGA Tour and moved to No. 5 in the world ranking.

He had to survive a wild back nine at the TPC Summerlin in which four players had a share of the lead at some point. Cantlay, trying to become the first player to win back-to-back in Las Vegas in nearly 20 years, made a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-5 16th hole to take a one-shot lead. But from a bunker right of the green on the par-3 17th, Cantlay was fooled by the amount of sand under his ball and flubbed the shot.

One hole behind him, DeChambeau rolled in his long eagle putt from just off the green and celebrated with a big uppercut. Cantlay missed his long par putt, giving DeChambeau control of the tournament. Cantlay birdied the 18th for

a 65, but it wasn't enough when DeChambeau played the final two holes conservatively for pars to finish at 21-under 263.

DeChambeau won for the third straight season, and fifth time overall on the PGA Tour.

The 25-year-old American began his big run with a playoff victory at the Memorial, and then won consecutive FedEx Cup playoff events in New Jersey and Boston. He said he was playing Las Vegas to shake off a little rust, and it turned into another victory. "I was able to play some great golf," DeChambeau said. "I'm happy to get it done." Not since Jim Furyk in 1998-99 had anyone successfully defended his title in Las Vegas, and Cantlay looked as if he might get it done when he drove the green on the par-4 15th for a two-

putt birdie, and then rolled in another good birdie after having to lay up on the 16th.

His tee shot into the 17th was a fraction away from catching a slope and feeding toward the hole. Instead, it tumbled into the bunker to set up what appeared to be a relatively simple shot.

"When I dug my left foot in, it didn't have a bunch of sand," Cantlay said. "I hit the shot and there was more sand under the ball. I didn't anticipate it."

He wasn't the only player stung by the outcome.

Former U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover had a 4-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole that would have given him a share of the lead with three holes to play. Glover missed the putt, and then missed a 30-inch par putt. □



# Long-distance call: Thomas helps Saints beat Rams 45-35

By BRETT MARTEL

AP Sports Writer

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Michael Thomas caught a late 72-yard touchdown reception and then celebrated with a cellphone in a throwback to another famous New Orleans play, and the streaking Saints handed the Los Angeles Rams their first loss of the season with a 45-35 win on Sunday.

Drew Brees passed for 346 yards and four touchdowns in New Orleans' seventh straight win, and Thomas finished with a club-record 211 yards receiving. But what happened after their last connection of the day really stole the show in a wild shootout between two of the NFL's best offenses.

Thomas' long TD came on a pivotal third-down play with about four minutes to go, when the Rams seemed to expect the Saints to run a play closer to the first-down marker. Thomas ran free behind Marcus Peters, caught Brees' long throw virtually in stride and ran straight to the goal post, where he got out an old-school flip phone — reminiscent of Joe Horn's Sunday night TD celebration in 2003.

Like Horn, Thomas was penalized, but the Rams never threatened after that.

P.J. Williams, credited with causing two turnovers in New Orleans' previous victory at Minnesota, broke up a fourth-down pass intended for Brandin Cooks, virtually sealing the result. The former Saints receiver, who caught six passes for 114 yards and a TD, fell to his knees in frustration.

Thomas, who caught 12 passes, eclipsed Wes Chandler's club record of 205 yards receiving against Atlanta in 1979.

New Orleans running back Alvin Kamara scored three

times, twice on runs and once on a 16-yard catch-and-run — all in the first half. The Rams (8-1) very nearly pulled off an extraordinary comeback in the Superdome, where the crowd was revved up after New Orleans (7-1) raced to a three-touchdown lead late in the first half.

Los Angeles rallied to tie the game at 35 with 21 unanswered points in just less than 21 minutes off the clock, starting with Greg Zuerlein's 56-yard field goal as time expired in the first half.

Receiving the kick to start the third quarter, Los Angeles put together an 11-play touchdown drive capped by Malcolm Brown's 18-yard catch and run in which the running back hopped over safety Marcus Williams along the sideline and kept his balance long enough to reach the ball across the goal line.

After another field goal cut New Orleans' lead to 35-27, the Rams forced a second straight punt and tied the game on Cooper Kupp's 41-yard catch and run along the left sideline.

The Saints regained the lead on Wil Lutz's 54-yard field goal, and then forced the Rams' first punt of the game with about five minutes left.

Brees threw three touchdowns passes in the first half, when the Saints scored 35 points.

Both teams scored touchdowns on each of their first two possessions, starting with Kamara's 11-yard run and Todd Gurley's 8-yard score.

Gurley's score have him a TD in a club-record 12 straight games, passing Hall of Famer Elroy Hirsch.

The tenor of the game changed when outside linebacker Samson Ebukam stripped New Orleans

running back Mark Ingram and defensive Aaron Donald recovered on the Saints 22. But four plays later, Johnny Hekker was ruled down just short of the first down marker on a fake field goal. The Rams challenged, but the call stood, and the Saints marched back down the field, scoring on Brees' quick hit over the middle to rookie Tre'Quan Smith from 4 yards out. That was the first of three successive touchdowns for New Orleans.

After Zuerlein missed a 51-yard field goal attempt, the Saints scored on Brees' 13-yard pass to Ben Watson with just more than a minute left in the second quarter. Shortly after, Alex Anzelone's diving interception of Jared Goff's pass over the middle set up Kamara's short TD run with 26 seconds to go in the half.

Goff passed for 391 yards and three TDs.

**INJURIES**

Rams: Edge pass rusher Matt Longacre was being

evaluated for a concussion during the second quarter.

looked at after his fumble but returned.

Saints: Ingram had his arm

om/AP\_NFL



New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara (41) celebrates his touchdown in the first half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams in New Orleans, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Associated Press



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First place finishers Mary Keitany of Kenya, left, and Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia pose for a picture at the finish line of the New York City Marathon in New York, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

# Ethiopia's Desisa, Kenya's Keitany win NYC Marathon

By DENIS P. GORMAN

**NEW YORK (AP)** — By the time Mary Keitany was pacing her way up Manhattan's First Avenue, she had no reason to look back for challengers. The Kenyan's lead was growing over the strong women's field with every stride, and all she thought about was the finish line.

Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia didn't break out into a big grin until he pulled away from two opponents late in the race.

In perfect crisp autumn weather for distance runners, Keitany and Desisa won the New York City Marathon on Sunday in

near record times.

Keitany, 36, became the second woman to win the marathon four times. She ran the race in 2 hours, 22 minutes, 48 seconds, the second fastest time for the course in history. Margaret Okayo of Kenya set the record of 2:22:31 in 2003.

"I can say the course record was not in my mind," Keitany said. "For me, winning was the most important."

Desisa, 28, held off countryman Shura Kitata by 1.99 seconds for his first win in New York, joining victories at the Boston Marathon in 2013 and 2015. He finished second in New York in 2014 and third in 2015 and 2017.

"This is my dream," Desisa said. "To be a champion." Desisa finished in 2 hours, 5 minutes, 59 seconds, the second fastest time for the course. Geoffrey Mutai of Kenya set the record of 2:05:05 in 2011. Last year's winner, Geoffrey Kamworor of Kenya, finished third.

"I'm pretty happy to finish on the podium," Kamworor said. "I came out the best that I could in the race. I tried my best, and I'm happy to be third."

Keitany won in 2014, 2015 and 2016 before coming in second last year to Shalane Flanagan, the first American woman in 40 years to win the New York City Marathon. She joined Grete Waitz, the Norwegian who won the marathon nine times between 1978-1988, as the only women to win the marathon four times.

She and Ethiopians Rahma Tusa and Gudeta turned their race to a three-woman field at the 15-mile mark. Keitany pulled away from Tusa and Gudeta at the 19-mile mark, leading Tusa by 26.58 seconds and Gudeta by 43.98 seconds. She extended her lead over Tusa to 1:27.83 at the 21-mile mark.

From that point, the question was not whether Keitany would win. Rather, it was by how much.

She beat countrywoman

Vivian Cheruiyot by 3 minutes, 13 seconds.

Flanagan finished third.

"You have to find motivation, things to focus on," Flanagan said. "When I finally got to third place, I got another level of excitement because I was fighting."

The United States had four women finish in the top 10: Molly Huddle was fourth, Desiree Linden was sixth and Allie Kieffer was seventh.

Four American men also finished in the top 10: Jared Ward was sixth, Scott Fauble was seventh, Shadrack Biwott was ninth and Chris Derrick was tenth.

Daniel Romanchuk became the first American to win the men's wheelchair division, with a time of 1:36:21. Romanchuk finished 01.15 seconds ahead of Switzerland's Marcel Hug. David Weir of Britain, American Aaron Pike and Australian Kurt Fernley rounded out the top five.

"I need air and I'm in pain," said Romanchuk, a 20-year old from Champaign, Illinois, who won the Chicago Marathon last month. "It's wonderful to be able to win my two Abbott major marathons on American soil. It's an amazing experience."

Manuela Schar of Switzerland repeated as winner of the women's wheelchair division. Schar, who also won the Berlin and Chicago marathons, finished with a time of 1:50:27. American Tatyana McFadden finished second with a time of 1:50:48. Lihong Zou of China came in third. Eliza Ault-Connell of Australia and Margriet Van Den Broek of the Netherlands finished fourth and fifth.

"New York is always a really tough one for me because of the course," Schar said. "I'm not really a good climber so I always have to work really hard in the flat part. Yeah (I) tried to make that ground that I lose in the hills. I'm always a bit more nervous before New York than before the other races." □

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## Khachanov stuns Djokovic to win his 1st Paris Masters title

**PARIS (AP)** — Karen Khachanov upset a tired-looking Novak Djokovic 7-5, 6-4 to win the Paris Masters title and deprive Djokovic of the chance on Sunday to match Rafael Nadal's record of 33 Masters titles.

Djokovic, a record four-time champion at the indoor event, looked out of energy after an epic three-hour semifinal win against Roger Federer on Saturday. After also being taken to three sets by Marin Cilic in Friday's quarterfinals, Djokovic's semifinal finished at around 8 p.m. local time and he felt he was unable to recover sufficiently from that draining encounter.

"I didn't unfortunately. But I don't want to talk about that," Djokovic said. "I want to talk about how well (Khachanov) played all week and absolutely deserved to win today." Asked again whether it was a case of emotional fatigue, after such an intense tussle with Federer, Djokovic repeated his praise for Khachanov.

"Karen played really well and he deserved to win," Djokovic said. "All the credit to him."

Although Djokovic broke in

the fourth game to move 3-1 up and then led 30-0 on serve, the unseeded Khachanov broke him straight back and the momentum abruptly shifted away from Djokovic.

"I stepped in more inside the court," Khachanov said. "I started to move him and maybe he didn't expect that I could do it after being down 3-1 with a break." Djokovic seemed agitated at times and twice turned to his box to remonstrate about an unspecified issue during the first set.

Khachanov broke for 6-5 when he hit a powerful shot down the line that Djokovic could only scoop back into the net. The Russian won the first set with a big first serve that Djokovic could not return, stretching out his racket in vain as the fizzing ball clipped the frame.

Djokovic struggled to handle Khachanov's brutal two-handed, cross-court backhands from the baseline, which often landed near his ankles, and dropped his serve again to trail 2-1 in the second set. He had to save three more break points in the seventh game to hold for 4-3 down.

"He was playing big from

the back of the court, flat backhands and forehand. He can really hurt you," Djokovic said. "His serve is really, really strong and precise."

After both players held to love, Khachanov showed no nerves — even though he was in his first Masters final — and served out the match. He secured victory on his first match point when Djokovic chopped a backhand return wide. The imposing Khachanov thrust both his arms in the air and, moments later, knelt down to kiss the court.

"It's a breakthrough season. And this title, it's a good year-end I would say," Khachanov said. "Maybe I'm not crying, but still I'm really happy." Djokovic will return to No. 1 in the rankings for the first time in two years on Monday, but the Serb will be disappointed at missing out on a 73rd career title, having withstood the best of Federer on Saturday. Still, the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion has plenty to feel good about after a 22-match winning streak, and he remains favorite for the season-ending ATP Finals in London, beginning Nov. 11.



Karen Khachanov of Russia poses with the trophy after winning the final match of the Paris Masters tennis tournament against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the Bercy Arena in Paris, France, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

## Barty beats Wang to win WTA Elite Trophy final

**ZHUHAI, China (AP)** — Ashleigh Barty defeated Wang Qiang 6-3, 6-4 to win the WTA Elite Trophy final on Sunday.

The Australian saved four of six break points and broke Wang's serve four times as she cruised to the biggest victory of her career.

"I know that whenever

I have played (Wang) in the past, it's always been an extremely tough match," said Barty. "There's a tendency to have long games, whether they're return or service games. It's kind of grinding out those games."

The win marks the third title of Barty's career and the second of 2018, following

a win at Nottingham earlier this year.

Wang became the first Chinese player to reach the final in Zhuhai.

The tournament in Zhuhai features leading players on the women's tour who didn't qualify for the WTA Finals in Singapore last week. □

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## NASCAR

### Continued from Front

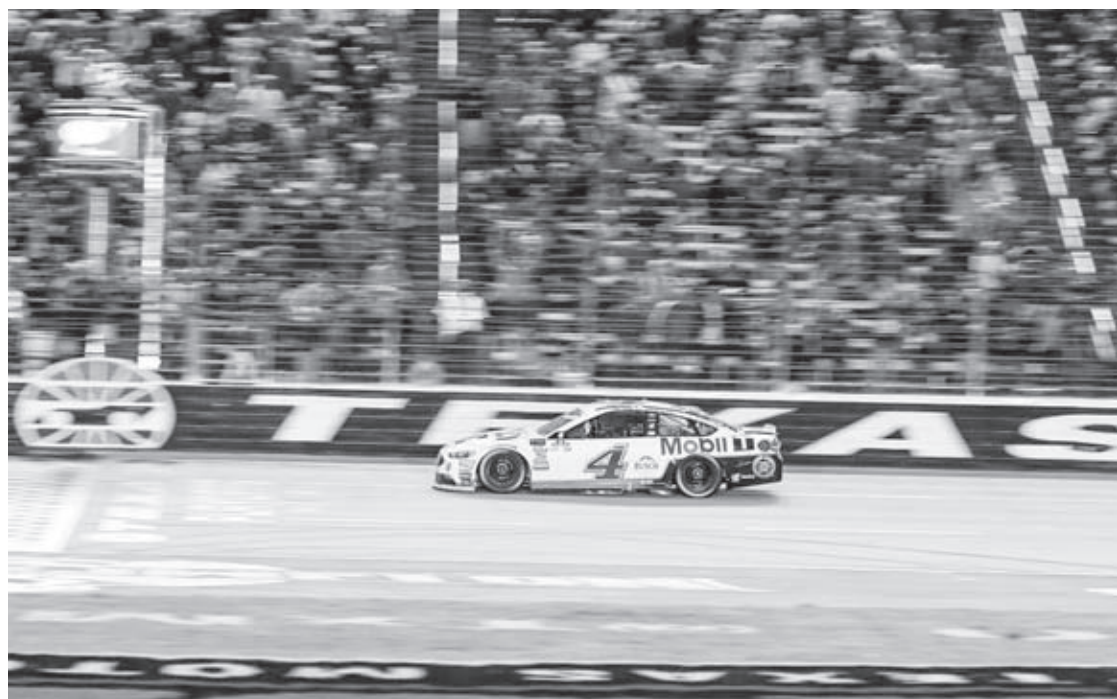
It is the second year in a row that Harvick, the 2014 Cup champion, won the fall race at Texas to get into the final four. Of his 32 starts in the Lone Star State, his only two wins are the last two fall races, but those are among his 20 top-10 finishes there.

"This place has been really good to me. I'm glad we got the win again here," he said.

Harvick also won both stages at the 1 1/2-mile Texas track, the fourth time this season he did that and went on to win the race.

With Joey Logano and Harvick locked in after winning the past two races, the series goes to Phoenix next week with only two spots up for grabs for the championship run at Homestead in two weeks.

Kyle Busch, a seven-time winner this year, and defending Cup champion Martin Truex Jr. are among the other six title contenders. They are comfortably



Kevin Harvick takes the checkered flag to win a NASCAR Cup auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

above the cut line for points, but Clint Bowyer, Aric Almirola, Kurt Busch or Chase Elliott could advance with a win in Phoenix. After the first of the late restarts, Harvick was on the inside and was able to keep Blaney from clearing him on the backstretch.

Harvick was already starting to rebuild his lead — it had been nearly 4 seconds before the caution — when another yellow flag came out.


Harvick was on the inside again for the next restart, before Blaney was able to get by him on the outside

and into the lead. Blaney led seven laps before Harvick went under him and was again putting distance between them before Joey Gase's spin brought out the last of eight cautions.

"They were hard. They were challenging," Blaney said about the restarts. "That

was really the only shot we had to beat him, to be honest with you. We got by him one restart and I just couldn't hold him off. ... The last one, he took the top, like I knew he was going to go. He motored around me." Truex, who was close to clinching a title spot before that bump-and-run by Logano on the final lap to win at Martinsville last week, finished ninth after at Texas. Truex had to start at the rear of the field because of an engine change. He also had a pass-through penalty during the race for driving through too many pit boxes, and was a lap down before getting that back one the first of the late cautions.


Logano was third at Texas. Elliott was sixth, followed by Kurt Busch and Almirola, who had also gone to the rear at the start of the race for unapproved body modifications. Kyle Busch was 17th and Bowyer 26th after starting on the front row but making contact with Denny Hamlin on the first lap. □





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- MARK TWAIN -






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## Cormier chokes out Lewis; defends 2nd title at UFC 230

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The "DC" initials that flashed on the Madison Square Garden marquee have a deeper meaning for Daniel Cormier.

Dual Champ.

Cormier draped himself in two title belts, history-making bling that cemented the 39-year-old as one of the greats in the mixed martial arts game.

"Two belts for each shoulder! I get to look at this again," Cormier said. "It's history and Daniel Cormier is one of the best of all-time."

He backed up his boast with authority in New York. Cormier choked out Derrick Lewis in the middle of the second round to retain his heavyweight championship in the main event of UFC 230, becoming the first fighter to defend titles in two weight classes.

Cormier, who also holds the light heavyweight crown, made quick work of an overmatched Lewis with a rear naked choke. He celebrated with his family in the cage as Lewis trudged out, still in his trunks unlike the last fight that made him a quick star.

Cormier (22-1, 1 no-contest) had a quick take-down in the first and turned in a dominant yet dull effort to easily take the round. He didn't waste much time in the second and left MSG with a little slice of history. He was still ready to rumble. With trash talk worthy of WrestleMania hype, Cormier



Daniel Cormier holds his belts after defeating Derrick Lewis by submission during the second round of a heavyweight mixed martial arts bout at UFC 230, early Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

ier called out former UFC heavyweight champion and current WWE star Brock Lesnar for a match in 2019. Cormier had an itch to add a third (yet faux) title.

"Bring that belt with you when you come to my house," said Cormier, who has vowed to retire at age 40.

Cormier won the heavyweight crown when he flattened Stipe Miocic, a bout that ended with theatrics after he called Lesnar into the cage. Lesnar shoved Cormier in the chest while the fighters traded insults to hype a potential future bout.

UFC President Dana White has said he wanted a Lesnar-Cormier bout signed for next year, a showcase that would surely be the

biggest ever for heavyweights. Lesnar is still with WWE and left the promotion's controversial Crown Jewel event on Friday in Saudi Arabia as the Universal champion. His status remains as murky as ever — he still has to serve out the remainder of a USADA suspension — and was not spotted at MSG.

Cormier beat Anthony Johnson in 2015 to win the light heavyweight title and defended it against the likes of Alexander Gustafsson and Volkan Oezdemir. Cormier has never lost to anyone except Jon Jones, the star-crossed former light heavyweight champion who beat him twice. The second bout last year was changed to a no-contest when Jones failed a dop-

ing test that kept him out of the sport for 15 months. Cormier will be stripped of his light heavyweight title and the 205-pound crown will go to the winner of the Jones-Gustafsson bout at UFC 232 on Dec. 29 in Las Vegas.

Jones has ruled out a trilogy, and Cormier's next challenger will surely give him a better fight than Lewis.

Lewis (21-6) served 3½ years in prison in his early 20s stemming from a parole violation when he was charged with aggravated assault shortly after high school. Lewis took up mixed martial arts shortly after his release and used his big right hand to ascend to a title shot. He had won nine of his last 10 fights and his

self-deprecating humor — including a randy answer as to why he stripped off his shorts inside the cage after his last win — earned him a sponsorship deal with Pop-eyes Chicken.

"Look who just slid into our DMs before the weigh in," the fried chicken joint tweeted, with a picture of Lewis chomping on a drumstick.

Much like attacking a bucket of chicken, Cormier tagged Lewis everywhere: leg, thigh, and then the neck for the decisive blow.

"A lot of people have to understand that I've been doing this for nine years and I fought at a championship level for eight of them," Cormier said. "If you have a puncher's chance it's not good enough."

The main event had history, if not the thrills of the earlier bouts.

Ronaldo "Jacare" Souza connected on a flush right hand to the temple to knock out Chris Weidman in the third round in a battle of two fighters who both badly needed a victory.

Souza and Weidman were engaged in a brutal slugfest that kept both fighters on their feet for most of the first 2½ rounds. Weidman finally got caught and clung to Souza's leg as he tried to find his bearings. Souza got a couple of punches in for good measure until referee Dan Miragliotta mercifully stopped the fight.

Souza rebounded from a loss to Kelvin Gastelum at UFC 224 and did it with a busted nose. □



# Social media's misinformation battle: No winners, so far



In this Aug. 6, 2015, file photo, a Facebook elections sign stands in the media area in Cleveland, before the first Republican presidential debate.

**By BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook and other social platforms have been fighting online misinformation and hate speech for two years. With the U.S. midterm elections just a few days away, there are signs that they're making some headway, although they're still a very long way from winning the war. That's because the effort risks running into political headwinds that Facebook, Twitter and Google find bad for business. Some even argue that the social networks are easy to flood with disinformation by design — an unintended consequence of their eagerness to cater to advertisers by categorizing the interests of their users. Caught embarrassingly off-guard after they were played by Russian agents meddling with the 2016 U.S. elections, the technology giants have thrown millions of dollars, tens of thousands of people and what they say are their best technical efforts into fighting fake news, propaganda and hate that has proliferated on their digital platforms. Facebook, in particular, has pulled a major reversal since late 2016, when CEO Mark Zuckerberg infamously dismissed the idea that

fake news on his service could have swayed the election as "pretty crazy." In July, for instance, the company announced that heavy spending on security and content moderation, coupled with other business shifts, would hold down growth and profitability. Investors immediately panicked and knocked \$119 billion off the company's market value. The social network has started to see some payoff for its efforts. A research collaboration between New York University and Stanford recently found that user "interactions" with fake news stories on Facebook, which rose substantially in 2016 during the presidential campaign, fell significantly between the end of 2016 and July 2018. On Twitter, however, the sharing of such stories continued to rise over the past two years. A similar measure from the University of Michigan's Center for Social Media Responsibility dubbed the "Iffy Quotient" — which gauges the prevalence of "iffy" material on social networks — also shows that Facebook's "iffiness" has fallen from a high of 8.1 percent in March 2017 to 3.2 percent on Monday. Twitter iffiness has also fallen slightly, from 5.6% in November 2016, to

4.2 percent on Monday. Even at these levels, fake news remains huge and may be spreading to new audiences. A team led by Philip Howard, the lead researcher on Oxford's Computational Propaganda effort, looked at stories shared on Twitter during the last 10 days of September 2018 and found that what it called "junk news" accounted for a full quarter of all links shared during that time — greater than the number of professional news stories shared during that time. The team defined junk news as sources that published deceptive or incorrect information, often in an ideological or conspiratorial way, while failing to meet criteria such as professionalism, bias, credibility and style. While the Oxford analysis didn't produce similar figures for Facebook, the researchers did map out how junk news circulates on the social network and found that conspiracy theories and other misinformation once confined to a "hard right" audience are now shared more freely among mainstream conservatives as well. (Left-leaning users have also developed a taste for junk news, the Oxford team found, but it rep-

resents only a small fraction of the material they share on Facebook.) Such studies offer imperfect pictures of what's actually happening on social networks, since the services typically don't offer researchers untrammelled access to their data. Twitter, for instance, takes issue with the Oxford study, noting that it used a public feed of tweets that doesn't reflect the filtering Twitter does to remove malicious or spammy material. Tamping down misinformation, of course, is anything but easy. Adversaries are always finding new ways around restrictions. It can also be hard to distinguish misinformation and propaganda from legitimate news, especially when world leaders such as President Donald Trump are regularly disseminating falsehoods on social media. Politics also complicates matters, since the social-media companies are anxious to avoid charges of political bias. When Facebook, Google's YouTube and, eventually, Twitter all banned the conspiracy-monger Alex Jones for various violations of their terms of service, Jones and his allies immediately claimed he was being censored. President Trump chimed

in a few weeks later with a parallel charge, claiming without evidence that Google and other companies were "suppressing voices of Conservatives and hiding information and news that is good." Twitter, in fact, charges that researchers such as the Oxford team define "junk news" too broadly. The group, for instance, classes conservative sites such as Breitbart News and the Daily Caller as "junk" by its criteria. Twitter argues that banning "media outlets that reflect views within American society" would "severely hinder public debate." Some critics charge that the very advertising-based business model that made Zuckerberg rich is also perfectly suited for propagandists. Services like Facebook and Twitter "sustain themselves by finding like-minded groups and selling information about their behavior," Dipayan Ghosh, a former privacy policy expert at Facebook and Ben Scott, senior adviser at New America, wrote in a Time Magazine op-ed earlier this year. "Disinformation propagators sustain themselves by manipulating the behavior of like-minded groups." "They don't self-regulate," said Dora Kingsley Vertenten, a professor of public policy at the University of Southern California and CEO of research consulting firm Trenton West. "They just want to make a profit, and what they have done to date is not nearly enough." Really fixing the misinformation problem might require big changes to how these services work. Users started spending less time on Facebook after it made changes to make its service more "meaningful" to users, involving less scrolling through posts and more interactions with friends, the company said. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey has hinted that he is open to drastic changes, but he hasn't yet said what they might look like. And there haven't been any obvious shifts since he made that statement in August. □

Associated Press



# Charles Schwab executive talks financial literacy

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL  
Associated Press

Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz is an industry leader in financial literacy. A seasoned financial planner, she is senior vice president of Charles Schwab & Co., the company her father founded in 1971. Schwab-Pomerantz has advised two White House administrations and is the author of multiple personal finance books.

Schwab-Pomerantz recently spoke to The Associated Press about financial literacy, gender parity and the importance of having a financial plan. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q:** Financial literacy has been a part of your entire life. What made you so passionate about it?

**A:** I've been working for Schwab since I was 16. The company was basically a startup at that time. (My father) built the company on democratizing investing and creating more accessibility for everyday Americans. They say apples don't fall far from the tree, so I guess that my whole career has been about democratizing investing and making it more accessible for those not well-served by our industry.

Growing up, my father — before Schwab — was a struggling businessman. He had several ventures that didn't pan out. And when I was young my parents divorced. My mom was Stanford Phi Beta Kappa — my parents met at Stanford — but she was definitely a



This undated photo provided courtesy of Schwab shows Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz, who is an industry leader in financial literacy.

Associated Press

woman of the time. And with my dad struggling and the divorce I think it had an impression on me about women's financial empowerment. Women really (need) to be engaged in their finances and independent.

I've been fortunate to learn about investing and saving at an early age and see the benefit of that.

**Q:** You mentioned underserved populations, are there groups that should be taking better steps with their money, or who lack information?

**A:** I have been working on this for 30-plus years and along with my colleagues have created financial literacy programs for women, for inner city kids, for working poor over 50 — everyday Americans. And I'm talking to our clients from

rich to poor.

What I have concluded is that the lack of financial literacy cuts across Americans from all walks of life. It is blind to economic status, gender and age.

Our latest research found there was some positive news: women's attitudes and aspirations are in the right place. Unfortunately, cultural habits and society still get in the way of women having economic parity and that is discouraging.

**Q:** How can that change?

**A:** I think it is one thing where we all need to come together. (Financial education) can be embedded in school curriculums. And in the public sector, the government has a bully pulpit. And nonprofits — we have a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. I think together we can all start to

make the change.

The bottom line is a lot of these issues start at home — how we talk about money. The gender gap starts at early ages so we've got to be talking to daughters the same way as sons. Also, it's about creating a culture that it is our personal responsibility to be engaged in our finances.

**Q:** What is the biggest hurdle for folks wanting to take control of their money?

**A:** It's about making a plan for getting there. That intentional act of focusing on your finances can make such a difference.

It's also about being scrappy — you've got to know what you are spending your money on, where you are spending your money and where can you cut. You just have to be a little more disciplined sometimes. If you have aspirational goals you are more likely to be motivated.

I think people think it is scarier than it really is.

**Q:** I understand even you get professional financial advice?

**A:** I recently revealed this. I always did it on my own and it wasn't until my 40s that I got outside help. I was flying all over the country. I had three kids, a husband and a big commute. I couldn't do it all on my own. I went into a Schwab program and we met on a quarterly basis

and I did the work. Using an adviser felt kind of like a personal trainer. It creates more accountability. I meet with them on a regular basis and I learn from that person and I get better results.

**Q:** What do you suggest for starting education with children?

**A:** I did start early and I had a little system. When my kids were young — 5 years old or so — I gave them an allowance, not very much. And that was the beginning of them experiencing money and putting value on it.

I remember my middle child pleading to get Pokemon cards and I was tempted to buy them and move on. But I said 'You have an allowance, why don't you get them for yourself.' He thought about it and thought about it and said 'I think I'll pass.' He decided his money was more valuable than mine. Learning the value of money early and making choices is important.

When it came to investing, I made them come to the Schwab office and fill out paperwork. I could have done it for them but I wanted them to experience working with a financial institution. It can be intimidating for a lot of people. And when the kids got jobs I opened up a custodian Roth IRA where they started saving.

**Q:** Anything else we should know?

**A:** Learning about finances isn't a one-point-in-time thing, it's a lifelong pursuit. Life changes and therefore your goals change. □

## For some, a vibrant US economy complicates voting decision

EXTON, Pennsylvania (AP) — For many voters in America's affluent suburbs, a flourishing economy is forcing a thorny dilemma for the midterm elections.

Do they vote Democratic, in part to protest President Donald Trump for behavior some see as divisive and un-presidential? Or do they

back Republicans in hopes that the economy will continue thriving under the majority party?

A healthy economy has at least complicated their decision and blurred the outcome of the midterm elections. On Friday, the government reported that employers added a robust

250,000 jobs in October.

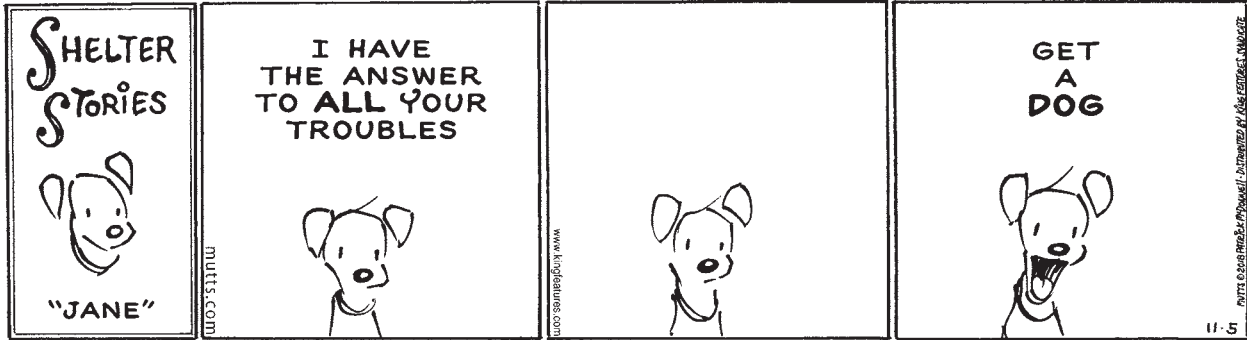
At stake Tuesday is control of the House and Senate, both now led by Republican majorities. Steady economic growth and a vigorous job market haven't been the clincher in prosperous areas that were once seemingly safe Republican turf. □

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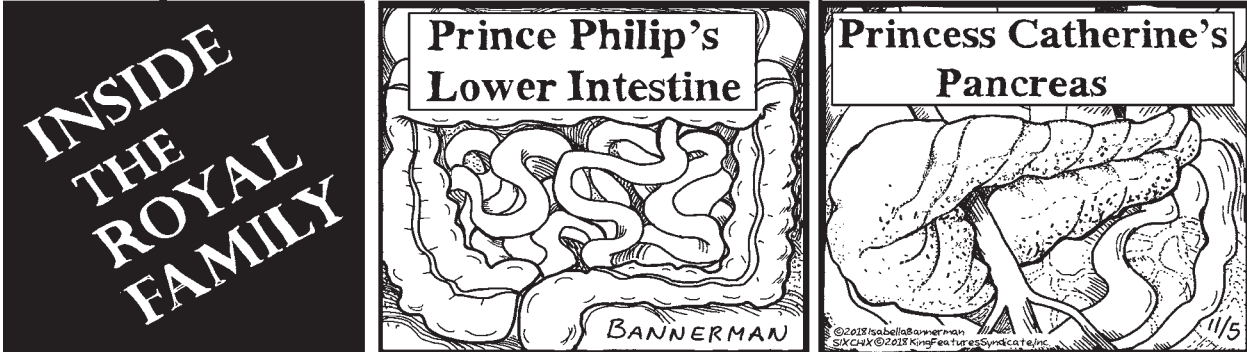
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## Mutts



## 6 Chix



## Blondie



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## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

8	9			4	3	2		5
		4			9			7
1			2				8	
2	5					1		
4				6				2
		1					9	3
	6				8			1
7			1			3		
3		2	9	5			4	6

Difficulty Level ★

11/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

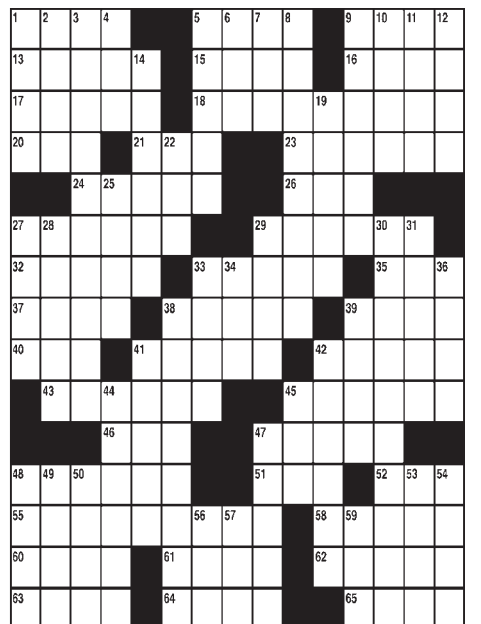
9	8	1	7	5	2	4	3	6
2	6	7	3	1	4	5	8	9
4	3	5	6	9	8	2	7	1
3	7	4	1	6	5	9	2	8
6	2	9	8	7	3	1	5	4
1	5	8	2	4	9	3	6	7
7	4	6	5	2	1	8	9	3
8	1	2	9	3	6	7	4	5
5	9	3	4	8	7	6	1	2

### ACROSS

- In addition to
- Helpful hints
- Performances
- Freeway divisions
- Kitchen or den
- Drill a hole
- Beginning
- Thorough; absolute
- Fight result, for short
- Greek letter
- Awakens
- Inexpensive
- Facial twitch
- Man of the cloth
- Handgun
- Packages of paper
- Lying flat
- Dyer's tub
- Flows back
- Part of a fork
- Goose egg
- Star of "The King and I"
- Flamboyant
- Funeral hymn
- Tried out
- Chopped finely
- Split \_\_ soup
- Throw to a batter
- Resounds
- Hardwood tree
- "Much \_\_ About Nothing"
- Quack
- Goofed
- Metal corrosion
- \_\_ as a pin
- Became furious
- Baseball officials
- Afternoon socials
- Ties the knot

### DOWN

- Story line
- Thin



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/5/18

### Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	I	N	S		S	P	A	S	M		S	N	O	W
R	O	O	T		P	I	X	I	E		P	O	P	E
A	W	R	Y		R	E	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	D
T	A	T		N	E	T	S				I	R	O	N
				H	O	O	E				I	N	A	
S	A	B	O	T	S			S	C	U	L	P	T	
E	L	O	P	E		P	A	C	E	S		S	H	
P	L	U	S		S	A	L	A	D		L	Y	R	E
T	I	N		D	E	N	I	M		N	I	C	E	R
E	D	D	I	E	S			T	E	E	H	E	E	
				I	N	K				T	O	R	S	O
G	L	O	V	E		G	O	A	D		L	E	T	
R	I	V	E	R		B	O	A	T	S		B	O	A
O	V	E	R		I	N	L	E	T		O	G	R	E
W	E	N	T		N	E	E	D	Y		T	Y	N	E

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11/5/18

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 39 Element whose symbol is Zn | 48 Soft beige                |
| 41 Iron alloy                 | 49 Pal                       |
| 42 In a __; agitated          | 50 Lock's hinged metal plate |
| 44 Athletics                  | 53 Action                    |
| 45 Prefix for treat or taken  | 54 Likelihood                |
| 47 Trousers                   | 56 Peg for Tiger             |
|                               | 57 Motorists' org.           |
|                               | 59 Uncooked                  |



# WWI centenary to be marked in London and Paris, not Berlin

By DAVID RISING

**BERLIN (AP)** — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on French soil, and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will be in London for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey with Queen Elizabeth II.

But while Germany's leaders visit the capitals of its wartime enemies, at home there are no national commemorations planned for the centenary of the Nov. 11 armistice that ended the four-year war that left 17 million dead, including more than 2 million German troops.

Next week, the German parliament is holding a combined commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the first German republic, the 80th anniversary of the brutal Nazi-era pogrom against Jews known as Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass), and the 29th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Almost as an afterthought, parliament notes there's also art exhibition in the lobby called "1914/1918 - Not Then, Not Now, Not Ever."

More than just being on the losing side of World War I, it's what came next that is really behind Germany's lack of commemorative events.

For Germany, the Nov. 11 armistice did not mean peace like it did in France and Britain. The war's end gave rise to revolution and street fighting between far-left and far-right factions. It also brought an end to the monarchy, years of hyperinflation, widespread poverty and hunger, and helped create the conditions that brought the Nazis to power in 1933.

The horrific legacy of the Holocaust and the mass destruction of World War II simply overshadows everything else in Germany, said Daniel Schoenpflug, a historian at Berlin's Free University's Friedrich-Meinecke-Institute. His new book, "A World on Edge," explores the immediate aftermath of the war through individual perspectives.

"One can't reduce it to the simple fact that one country won the war and the other lost," Schoenpflug said. "Germany is a country that draws practically its entire national narrative out of the defeat of 1945" — and not the defeat of 1918.

By contrast in Turkey, which was also on the losing side in World War I, the war's end produced a similar collapse of the Ottoman empire and a war of independence, but also gave rise to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who founded the modern Turkish republic.

In Germany, even though the end of World War I is now viewed through the prism of Hitler and the Holocaust, in the immediate postwar period there actually was a time of utopianism, with movements promoting idealistic visions of peace and democracy, Schoenpflug said.

Yet on the other side of the political spectrum, utopianism on the right also gave birth to fascism, he said.

And as initial euphoria over the end of World War I faded, hopes for the future quickly gave way to feelings of resentment at the reparations and conditions imposed on Germany by the victorious powers. The Nazis and right-wing nationalists were able to garner support by pushing the "stab-in-the-back" myth, which held that Germany's civilian leaders sold out the



A field of graves belonging to WWI soldiers in the main cemetery in Frankfurt, Germany, Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

army by agreeing to the Nov. 11 surrender.

"There was a war of dreams, a clash of utopias" between the right and the left, Schoenpflug said.

Although there aren't any national commemorations in Germany marking the war's end, individual events are planned, including an exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin. A special World War I religious service is also being organized by the German Bishops Conference at the Berliner Dom cathedral.

And in addition to German officials taking part in events in London and Paris, the Foreign Ministry said they and their British counterparts have worked together to coordinate the

ringing of church and secular bells around the world on Nov. 11 to mark the war's centenary.

"The bells will ring at midday to commemorate the more than 17 million victims of World War I and as a call for understanding and reconciliation across borders," the ministry said. □



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# Appendix removal is linked to lower risk of Parkinson's

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Scientists have found a new clue that Parkinson's disease may get its start not in the brain but in the gut — maybe in the appendix.

People who had their appendix removed early in life had a lower risk of getting the tremor-inducing brain disease decades later, researchers reported Wednesday.

Why? A peek at surgically removed appendix tissue shows this tiny organ, often considered useless, seems to be a storage depot for an abnormal protein — one that, if it somehow makes its way into the brain, becomes a hallmark of Parkinson's.

The big surprise, according to studies published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*: Lots of people may harbor clumps of that worrisome protein in their appendix — young and old, people with healthy brains and those with Parkinson's.

But don't look for a surgeon just yet.

"We're not saying to go out and get an appendectomy," stressed Viviane Labrie of Michigan's Van Andel Research Institute, a neuroscientist and geneticist who led the research team.

After all, there are plenty of people who have no appendix yet still develop Parkinson's. And plenty of others harbor the culprit protein but never get sick, according to her research.

## THE GUT CONNECTION

Doctors and patients have long known there's some connection between the gastrointestinal tract and Parkinson's. Constipation and other GI troubles are very common years before patients experience trem-



This microscope image provided by the Van Andel Research Institute in October 2018 shows an abnormal protein that is a hallmark of Parkinson's disease clumped inside the appendix.

Associated Press

ors and movement difficulty that lead to a Parkinson's diagnosis.

Wednesday's research promises to re-energize work to find out why, and learn who's really at risk.

"This is a great piece of the puzzle. It's a fundamental clue," said Dr. Allison Willis, a Parkinson's specialist at the University of Pennsylvania who wasn't involved in the new studies but says her patients regularly ask about the gut link.

Parkinson's Foundation chief scientific officer James Beck, who also wasn't involved, agreed that "there's a lot of tantalizing potential connections."

He noted that despite its reputation, the appendix appears to play a role in immunity that may influence gut inflammation. The type of bacteria that live in the gut also may affect Parkinson's.

But if it really is common to harbor that Parkinson's-linked protein, "what we don't know is what starts it, what gets this whole ball rolling," Beck said.

For years, scientists have hypothesized about what might cause the gut-Parkinson's connection. One main theory: Maybe bad "alpha-synuclein" protein can travel from nerve fibers in the GI tract up the va-

gus nerve, which connects the body's major organs to the brain. Abnormal alpha-synuclein is toxic to brain cells involved with movement.

There have been prior clues. People who decades ago had the vagus nerve cut as part of a now-abandoned therapy had a reduced risk of Parkinson's. Some smaller studies have suggested appendectomies, too, might be protective — but the results were conflicting.

Labrie's team set out to find stronger evidence.

First, the researchers analyzed Sweden's huge national health database, examining medical records of nearly 1.7 million people tracked since 1964. The risk of developing Parkinson's was 19 percent lower among those who had

their appendix surgically removed decades earlier.

One puzzling caveat: People living in rural areas appeared to get the benefit. Labrie said it's possible that the appendix plays a role in environmental risk factors for Parkinson's, such as pesticide exposure.

Further analysis suggested people who developed Parkinson's despite an early-in-life appendectomy tended to have symptoms appear a few years later than similarly aged patients.

## A COMMON PROTEIN

That kind of study doesn't prove that removing the appendix is what reduces the risk, cautioned Dr. Andrew Feigin, executive director of the Parkinson's institute at NYU Langone Health, who wasn't involved in Wednesday's research.

So next, Labrie's team examined appendix tissue from 48 Parkinson's-free people. In 46 of them, the appendix harbored the abnormal Parkinson's-linked protein.

So did some Parkinson's patients. Whether the appendix was inflamed or not also didn't matter.

That's a crucial finding because it means merely harboring the protein in the gut isn't enough to trigger Parkinson's, Labrie said. There has to be another step that makes it dangerous only for certain people.

"The difference we think is how you manage this pathology," she said — how the body handles the build-up.

Her team plans additional studies to try to tell.

The reservoir finding is compelling, Feigin said, but another key question is if the abnormal protein also collects in healthy people's intestines.

And Penn's Willis adds another caution: There are other unrelated risks for Parkinson's disease, such as suffering a traumatic brain injury.

"This could be one of many avenues that lead to Parkinson's disease, but it's a very exciting one," she said. □



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# 'Mockingbird' chosen as America's best-loved novel in vote

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — "To Kill a Mockingbird," a coming-of-age story about racism and injustice, overpowered wizards and time travelers to be voted America's best-loved novel by readers nationwide.

The 1960 book by Harper Lee emerged as No. 1 in PBS' "The Great American Read" survey, whose results were announced Tuesday on the show's finale. More than 4 million votes were cast in the six-month-long contest that put 100 titles to the test. Books that were published as a series counted as a single entry.

The other top-five finishers in order of votes were Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" series about a time-spanning love; J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" boy wizard tales; Jane Austen's romance "Pride and Prejudice"; and J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" fantasy saga. Turns out the contest was a "Mockingbird" runaway.

"The novel started out at No. 1 on the first day of the vote, and it never wavered," series host Meredith Vieira said.

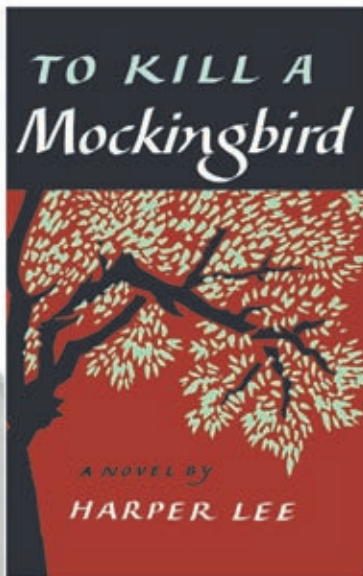
Joining her to sing the book's praises was writer Aaron Sorkin, whose adaptation of "Mockingbird" starts Broadway previews next month, and cast members. Sorkin ("The West Wing," "The Social Network") said reading Lee's novel was his first brush with "astonishing writing."

"There is soul-crushing injustice in this book that still exists," he said. "And at the center, morality, decency and what it is to be a person strikes us."

LaTanya Richardson Jackson, who portrays Calpurnia in the play, marveled at Lee's achievement.

"I was most impressed that a woman wrote that way" during that era, the actress said, and that Lee was so "deeply involved on the right side of right."

Lee's slender, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel proved enduring enough to overcome the popularity of hefty epics adapted as blockbuster movie fran-



This combination photo shows author Harper Lee during a ceremony honoring the four new members of the Alabama Academy of Honor at the Capitol in Montgomery, Ala. on Aug. 20, 2007, left, and the cover of her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Associated Press

chises (the Potter and Tolkien works) or for TV ("Outlander"). Even "Pride and Prejudice," the 200-year-old inspiration for numerous TV and movie versions and with an army of "Janeites" devoted to Austen and her work, couldn't best Lee's novel.

Debbie Ford of Orion, Illinois, an "Outlander" fan whose love of the books was showcased on an episode of "The Great American Read," expressed disappointment they didn't win. But she delighted in the attention they — and the joy of reading — received.

"I believe this PBS series has reminded some of us again that reading is important, and it has exposed us to books that we may not ordinarily pick up. And that's such a good thing!" Ford said in an email Tuesday, adding a friendly plug: "So please go read a book that you have not read before — especially if you haven't yet discovered 'Outlander!'"

"To Kill a Mockingbird" has

sold more than 40 million copies worldwide and re-

mains a fixture on school reading lists. The 1962 screen adaptation won three Oscars, including a best-actor trophy for Gregory Peck's portrayal of heroic Atticus Finch.

Set in the 1930s South, the book centers on attorney Finch and his young children, daughter Scout and son Jem. When Finch defends an African-American man falsely accused of assaulting a white woman, the trial and its repercussions open Scout's eyes to the world around her, good and bad.

Lee's second published novel, "Go Set a Watchman," was written in the 1950s before "Mockingbird" but is essentially a sequel. After being put aside by the author, it was rediscov-

ered and released in 2015. Lee died the next year at age 89.

Besides the TV series, "The Great American Read" initiative included a 50,000-member online book club and video content across PBS platforms, Facebook and YouTube that drew more than 5 million views.

The 100-book list voted on by readers was based on an initial survey of about 7,000 Americans, with an advisory panel of experts organizing the list. Books had to have been published in English but not written in the language, and one book or series per author was allowed.

Bookworms could vote once daily for their favorite work. □



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# With \$50 million debut, 'Bohemian Rhapsody' is no poor boy

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" and 20th Century Fox are — for now, at least — champions of the world.

"Bohemian Rhapsody," starring Rami Malek as the late Queen frontman, shrugged off production troubles and mediocre reviews to debut with \$50 million in weekend ticket sales in U.S. and Canada, and another \$72.5 million internationally, according to studio estimates Sunday. That was well beyond expectations, which had pegged the film closer to \$35-40 million in its opening weekend.

But audiences rushed to theaters to see the widely praised performance by Malek, the "Mr. Robot" star, and to hear Queen's foot-stomping anthems like "We are the Champions," "Another One Bites the Dust" and the operatic title song. The movie, which Bryan Singer directed before being replaced by Dexter Fletcher, at times has an almost concert-like feel,



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Gwilym Lee, from left, Rami Malek and Joe Mazzello in a scene from "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Associated Press

including a lengthy re-creation of the band's 1985 Live Aid performance.

"It really is a celebration of Queen and their music, and I think we did a really good job of letting people know that that's what this is," said Chris Aronson, distribution chief for Fox.

In soaring to No. 1, the Fox

release trounced one from Disney, which will soon own the studio. The Walt Disney Co.'s lavish, big-budget "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms," despite a production budget of \$125 million, opened with just \$20 million. Disney is set to merge with Fox in the coming months.

"We were hoping for a stronger start, but we do think it's a film that people will find as we head into the holidays," said Cathleen Taff, head of theatrical distribution for Disney.

Though Disney's record of success is the envy of Hollywood, "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" marks

the studio's third misfire this year following the underperforming "A Wrinkle in Time" and "Solo." The studio's CGI-stuffed resurrection of E.T.A. Hoffmann story was positioned as an early holiday season release, but flopped with critics (34 percent "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes) and sparked only modest interest from audiences. It grossed \$38.5 million overseas.

"Bohemian Rhapsody" was largely dismissed by critics as an overly conventional rock biopic (60 percent "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes), but the film proved more popular with moviegoers, who gave the PG-13 release, produced by Graham King, an A CinemaScore and 4 1/2 stars out of five on Comscore's PostTrak survey.

"Even in the negativity that came out of critics, there was always a 'but,' almost universally: 'But Rami is great,'" noted Aronson. "I'm very happy for Graham and Rami and the entire filmmaking team. And I'm happy for the home team. This is a big win for Fox."

## Streisand's 'Walls' strikes strident anti-Trump tone



This cover image released by Columbia Records shows "Walls" a release by Barbra Streisand.

Associated Press

By GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

Barbra Streisand, "Walls" (Columbia Records)

It's no surprise that fervent Hillary Clinton supporter and longtime Democratic Party fundraiser Barbra Streisand doesn't think much of Donald Trump. The surprise is that the legendary singer

chose to devote much of her new album, "Walls," to a series of laments about the U.S. president's policies. Streisand never mentions the president by name, but she doesn't have to. Opening track "What's on My Mind" speaks of her dashed hopes in the current era and asks, "How did we come to this divide?" The next one, "Don't Lie to Me," is even more direct, beginning with, "Why can't you just tell me the truth? Hard to believe the things you say."

The title track complains about the divisive nature of building walls — a familiar Trump campaign promise — and even picks up Clinton's campaign theme that it is better to build bridges instead.

As a counterpoint to this

gloom, she combines John Lennon's wistful "Imagine" with the Louis Armstrong classic "What a Wonderful World" and also covers "What the World Needs Now" in a paean to the redemptive power of love.

But those more hopeful tunes don't really save this offering from its lugubrious tone. Streisand's vocal range and control are still extraordinary, but the lyrics often fall flat, as in "Lady Liberty," which calls for the Statue of Liberty to "show us how to stand and feel a little prouder."

Her magnificent voice, at times quivering with deeply felt emotion, may not be the perfect instrument for expressing pointed political anger, and the soft string accompaniment becomes a bit predictable.

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	<p>MACKENZIE FOY   KEIRA KNIGHTLEY</p> <p><b>THE NUTCRACKER</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]</p> <p>MON-THU 4:50   7:05   9:20 FRI 4:50   7:05   9:20   11:35 SAT 2:35   4:50   7:05   9:20   11:35 SUN 2:35   4:50   7:05   9:20</p> <p>MON-FRI 4:25   6:35 SAT-SUN 2:15   4:25   6:35</p>
	<p>TIFFANY HADDOISH   TIKIA SUMPTER</p> <p><b>NOBODY'S FOOL</b> [R]</p> <p>MON-THU 4:40   7:05   9:30 FRI 4:40   7:05   9:30   11:55 SAT 2:15   4:40   7:05   9:30   11:55 SUN 2:15   4:40   7:05   9:30</p>
	<p>JAMIE LEE CURTIS   JUDY GREER</p> <p><b>HALLOWEEN</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]</p> <p>MON-THU &amp; SUN 7:20   9:40 FRI-SAT 7:20   9:40   11:55</p> <p>MON-THU &amp; SUN 8:45 FRI-SAT 8:45   11:00</p>
<p>ROWAN ATKINSON   OLGA KURYLENKO</p> <p><b>JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]</p> <p>MON-SUN 3:45   5:40   7:35   9:35</p> <p>GERARD BUTLER   GARY OLDMAN</p> <p><b>HUNTER KILLER</b></p> <p>MON-SUN 4:20   9:20</p>	<p>TOM HARDY   MICHELLE WILLIAMS</p> <p><b>VENOM</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]</p> <p>MON-FRI 6:55 SAT-SUN 1:55   6:55</p>

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**'Fantastic Beasts' stars: Grindelwald isn't Trump, exactly**

By RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Johnny Depp's charismatic leader at the center of the new "Fantastic Beasts" sequel isn't modeled on President Donald Trump.

But the stars of "Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald," the film written by J.K. Rowling about a dark wizard who becomes a divisive leader in the magical world, tell The Associated Press that there are some similarities.

The film is set in the "Harry Potter" universe and finds Depp's character, Gellert Grindelwald, seeking to gain power and divide "pureblood" wizards from humans in 1920s Paris.

"It's shining a light, isn't it, on things that have happened before as well," said Callum Turner, who plays Theseus, the older brother to Eddie Redmayne's hero main character in the film. "And how seductive and



In this July 21, 2018 file photo, Johnny Depp appears in character as Gellert Grindelwald at the Warner Bros.

easy things can take a turn for the worse. And not just be specific to any one moment.

"That's the question. Why

are we — people being seduced in that way? What is it in the moment, in the zeitgeist, what is that? And that's what is interesting

about that — that's the similarity. Not the person. The message."

Katherine Waterston, who plays a magical law en-

forcement agent, says the villain crafted by the politically outspoken Rowling is more "subtle" than the real-life president.

"Every bad guy is more nuanced and subtle than Trump. He is like the most overt bad guy of all time," she said. "But it's amazing because she was actually writing this long before the election happened — this chapter of the story. So yeah, it's interesting actually with brilliant people, if they're paying attention to the way the world is going, they actually tend to predict the future.

Yeah, but it really is I think from paying close attention. And she's so politically active."

Ezra Miller plays a mysterious character named Credence Barebone, whose powers include a destructive magical parasite. He says Grindelwald shares similarities to many leaders throughout history. □

Associated Press



# Venezuela's vanishing red bird gets a coffee pick-me-up

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ**

Associated Press

**CARAYACA, Venezuela**

(AP) — Images of a tiny red bird that barely fills the palm of one's hand appear everywhere in Venezuela — printed on money, labels of craft beer bottles and the cover of children's school books.

But the finch-like red siskin is vanishing from the wild at an alarming rate, falling prey to a century of shrinking forests and poachers cashing in on their brilliant red feathers, prized around the world by breeders of exotic birds.

That threat has brought together an international team including scientists from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and poor coffee farmers in Venezuela's remote mountains, all set on rescuing it from extinction. The plan is to entice farmers to plant organic coffee groves with layers of thick branches that are inviting to the endangered, perching songbird, which has lost a lot of its habitat.

"They don't have many years left, unless we do something right now," said Miguel Arvelo, a veterinarian for the Caracas-based nonprofit Provita, one of the groups spearheading the effort.

The "Cardenalito," or "Little Cardinal" as it is affectionately called, holds a special place in Venezuelan culture, the poster child of some 1,400 bird species — from the Amazon to the Andes — that live in one of the world's most biodiverse



In this Oct. 24, 2018 photo, a Venezuelan male red siskin takes flight in Vargas, Venezuela.

Associated Press

landscapes.

Once flourishing in the millions, as few as 300 remain in the wild in Venezuela, although scientists say it's difficult to estimate their numbers in the politically turbulent and dangerous country.

The Red Siskin Initiative launched about three years ago on a shoestring budget of less than \$100,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and private groups in the U.S. and Venezuela.

Planting organic groves with thick branches reverses a trend among farmers who boost bean production by thinning coffee groves for more sunlight, or cut them down altogether to plant vegetables that turn a quicker profit.

Farmers who meet the project's strict standards will

win the right to market their beans with "Bird Friendly" labels and take advantage of a loophole in Venezuelan law to set prices for premium products, sometimes five times higher than price caps set by the socialist government. Eventually they hope to export the coffee.

In parallel, a red siskin breeding center is being built at a private zoo in Venezuela where 200 birds are expected to be hatched next year, adding to the 25 caged at the Smithsonian Institution, forming a type of Noah's Ark to ensure that the iconic species does not disappear. Red siskins from the center will be introduced into the coffee groves.

While still in its early stages, backers say coffee initiative is already showing positive results. Some 40 farmers in the rugged, coastal mountains of Carayaca, northwest of the capital Caracas, have already stopped cutting down trees — an important first step to creating a robust habitat.

The tiny bird is prized for its fiery red plumage and jet-black hood on males, coveted by breeders who cross them with less colorful canaries to produce offspring of orange or red spots.

Protection under Venezuelan law dating back to the 1940s hasn't stopped poachers from catching it to sell on the international

black market. Online they go for more than \$300, and demand remains high in Eastern Europe and Asia, scientists say.

Adding to challenges, poor Venezuelan families often capture and sell the threatened bird to illegal traffickers. The profit can feed their children for months, said biologist Jhonathan Miranda, a Provita researcher.

Michael Braun, co-founder of the Red Siskin Initiative and a research scientist at Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, said Venezuela's deepening crisis has also taken a toll.

The oil-rich nation was for decades a coveted destination for naturalists and amateur birders. But recently a field researcher in a remote mountain range was robbed of his binocu-

lars and then shot at by two young men on a motorcycle, Braun said. At least one key member of their research team joined a growing exodus of Venezuelans fleeing the country.

"Every time I tell somebody we have an endangered bird project in Venezuela, they say, 'Oh, Venezuela? Good luck,'" Braun said. "It's a challenge."

The red siskin's primary range is the Caribbean coastal region of Venezuela, and some have been found in neighboring areas of Colombia and Guyana. Scientists carefully conceal the bird's location to protect them from poachers, but they allowed The Associated Press to photograph a small flock at a secret location in their natural habitat.

Catching sight of them required arriving before dawn, hiding motionless and silently in tall grass thick with mosquitoes under pouring rain. Then, the sun broke through and they swooped in — a dozen or more — landing one by one on tangled tree branches overhead, preening and loudly singing.

In Carayaca, Simon Then, a 53-year-old blue-eyed, blond farmer — descended from early German settlers — walks through his family's coffee grove surrounded by dozens of leafy, 5-foot-high shrubs nestled on a steep slope. His eyes fill with emotion showing off the red cherries starting to appear without the use of chemicals. □



This Oct. 20, 2018 photo shows Bolivar bank notes decorated with images of Venezuela's red siskin bird, as part of rescue program in Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 10, 2018 photo, agronomist Luis Arrieta inspects coffee beans that are in the germination process, to be planted in fields where peaches are grown in the coastal area of Carayaca on the outskirts of Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press